



Under the Canopy School Mandated Reporting Policy

All employees of Under the Canopy School are mandated reporters under Oklahoma law and are required to immediately report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

- If an employee has reason to believe that a child has been harmed or is at imminent risk of harm, they must contact the **Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-522-3511** without delay.
- The report must be made **personally by the individual who observed or suspects the abuse**, not by a supervisor or colleague on their behalf.
- After contacting DHS, the employee must notify the school administrator that a report has been made, maintaining the confidentiality of the child and family. Failure to report suspected abuse is a violation of both state law and school policy.
- Immunity for good faith reports. Oklahoma law provides that any District employee who in good faith and exercising due care makes a report to DHS or another appropriate law enforcement office shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. Neither the board of education nor any District employee will discharge or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against the person who in good faith provides such reports or information, testifies, or is about to testify in any proceeding involving abuse, neglect, exploitation, or trafficking, provided that the person did not perpetrate or inflict the abuse, neglect, exploitation or trafficking.

Definition of what abuse is:

“Abuse and neglect” shall include, but is not limited to the following:

- a. “Abuse” is defined as willful or malicious harm or threatened harm or failure to protect from harm or threatened harm to the health, safety, or welfare of a child under eighteen (18) years of age by a person responsible for a child’s health, safety, or welfare, or the act of willfully or maliciously injuring, torturing or maiming a child under eighteen (18) years of age by any person. (21 Okla. Stat. § 843.5); or
- b. “Neglect” is defined as the failure or omission to provide any of the following: adequate nurturance and affection, food, clothing, shelter, sanitation, hygiene, or appropriate education, medical, dental, or behavioral health care, supervision or appropriate caretakers, or special care made necessary by the physical or mental condition of the child and the failure or omission to protect a child from exposure to any of the following: use, possession, sale, or manufacture of illegal drugs, illegal activities, or sexual acts or materials that are not age-appropriate;
- c. “Sexual abuse” is defined as behavior that includes but is not limited to rape, incest and lewd or indecent acts or proposals, made to a child, as defined by law, by a person responsible for the health, safety, or welfare of the child. (10A Okla. Stat. § 1-1-105).

Under The Canopy School Mandated Reporter Attestation Statement

As an employee of Under the Canopy School, I understand that I am a **mandated reporter** under Oklahoma law (10A O.S. §1-2-101) and am legally required to immediately report any **suspected child abuse, neglect, or exploitation** to the **Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS)** or local law enforcement.

I acknowledge that:

- I am responsible for making a **direct and timely report** if I suspect a child has been harmed, is being harmed, or is at risk of harm.
- I understand that I **do not need proof** of abuse or neglect—only reasonable suspicion.
- I will make a report immediately by calling the **Oklahoma Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-522-3511** or by submitting an online report through DHS.
- I will notify the Head of School after making a report, while maintaining the child's confidentiality as required by law.
- I understand that **failure to report** suspected abuse or neglect is a violation of state law and school policy.
- I have received and reviewed Under the Canopy School's **Mandated Reporter Policy** and agree to uphold my legal and ethical obligations to protect children.

Employee Name: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Head of School Signature: _____

Date: _____