

RECOGNIZING & REPORTING CHILD ABUSE



Policy Statement and Entities Affected

NKU is committed to protecting the safety of minors who visit our campus, are involved in activities on our campuses, or attend NKU affiliated activities.

There are many circumstances where minors, who are not enrolled as students, visit our campus or have contact with university community members. University community members include faculty, staff, vendors, athletic trainers, medical providers, volunteers, and enrolled students.

Kentucky Law Definitions of Child Abuse

Click [here](#) to review the Kentucky statutory definition of child abuse.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Physical abuse is the injury by other than accidental means of a child under 18 years of age which is the result of actions by a parent, guardian or other designated (temporary or permanent) caretaker.

SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

- Sexual abuse and exploitation is contacts or interaction involving the use of children (under 18) for sexual stimulation. The definition is broad to include molestation and/or rape of a child by an adult or juvenile, as well as acts such as child pornography and prostitution. It includes touching, fondling and penetration. Abusers may use bribes, threats or physical force, or may take advantage of a child's lack of knowledge.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Emotional abuse involves words and may occur with or without other forms of abuse, and impairs a child's psychological growth and development.

NEGLECT

- Neglect is when the caretaker has failed to protect a child, or has by lack of action, placed a child at risk or harm. Neglect may not produce visible signs, and it usually occurs over a period of time. It is the failure or lack of prudent care for a child's well-being through lack of adequate supervision, food, clothing, shelter, education, or medical care.

DEPENDENT

- Any child, other than an abused or neglected child, who is under improper care, custody, control, or guardianship that is not due to an intentional act of the parent, guardian, or person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child;

Statutory Reporting Requirement

According to Kentucky law (KRS 620.030)

“Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe” that a child is dependent, neglected, abused, or the victim of human trafficking “shall immediately cause an oral or written report to be made” to a local law enforcement agency or the Cabinet.

NKU Mandatory Reporting

Therefore, **any** University community member who ‘knows or has reasonable cause to believe’ that a child is dependent, neglected, abused, a victim of human trafficking **must** make a report. This also includes **any** verbal disclosure by a child. Reports must be made to **both**:

- 1) Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline by phone 1-877-597-2331 or online at <https://prdweb.chfs.ky.gov/ReportAbuse>
- 2) University Police 859-572-5500

Call 911 in case of an emergency

NKU Mandatory Reporting

Any NKU employee or community member who knows, believes, or suspects a university employee or community member is or has engaged in sexual misconduct or abuse of **any** person, **must also** report the suspected behavior directly to the Director of Employee Relations & EEO. These reports cannot be made anonymously to the EthicsPoint Hotline.

Rachel Green

greenr5@nku.edu

859-572-7600

Statutory Immunity and Penalty

Immunity (KRS 620.050(1))

Both civil and criminal immunity from prosecution are given to any person making a report or assisting legal authorities or the child protection program in making an assessment, as long as that person is acting in good faith.

Penalty For Failure To Report (KRS 620.990(1))

Any person intentionally violating the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor. A Class B misdemeanor carries a penalty of up to 90 days in jail and/or a fine of up to \$250.

Thank you for making NKU a
safe place to learn, work, and
visit!

