Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to comply with our moral obligation to protect minor children as vulnerable members of society. Specifically, this policy addresses the reporting of abuse of minor children as mandated by Kansas Statute 38-2223. This statute addresses the reporting of certain abuse or neglect of children; persons reporting; reports made to whom; penalties; and immunity from liability.

Definition of Abuse

Physical, mental, or emotional abuse of a minor child means the infliction of physical, mental, or emotional harm or the causing of a deterioration of a child and may include, but shall not be limited to, maltreatment or exploiting a child to the extent that the child’s health or emotional well-being is endangered. Sexual abuse includes contracts or interactions between a child and an adult when the child is being used as an object of sexual gratification for the adult, the child, or another person. A child may be sexually abused whether or not the activity involves explicit force, involves genital or physical contact, is initiated by the child, or has a discernible harmful outcome.

Kansas Law

Kansas law provides that anyone who has reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected may report the abuse or neglect, without malice, and receive immunity from liability for making such a report. In order to protect our students or other minor children, under the age of 18, these procedures require our staff to report child abuse that allegedly occurs on our campus property or in vehicles owned or leased by the college; or while members of the faculty, staff and study body are participating in a college connected activity or event regardless of its location.

College Personnel/College Student Responsibility

Any college employee or student who has reason to believe that a minor has been abused on the college campus; on property or in vehicles owned or leased by the college; or while members of the faculty, staff, or student body are participating in a college connected activity or event or who has received a report of such alleged abuse shall report this information by contacting the Kansas Department for Children and Families at (800)922-5330. The willful and knowing failure to make a report required by this section is a class B misdemeanor. It is not a defense that another mandatory reporter made a report. Intentionally preventing or interfering with the making of a report required by this section is a class B misdemeanor.