



The Cool Volunteer (Elementary)

Jay Smith is the parent of a 5th grade male student. His wife is a stay-at-home mom who cares for three younger siblings. After clearing Megan's Law and fingerprinting, Jay started volunteering in his son's class. On several occasions, Jay told you how "attractive" some of the 5th grade female students were, but these comments stopped after the principal spoke to him. The students call him the "cool volunteer" because of the way he talks, and he doesn't follow school rules. You overhear the 5th grade female students say that Jay vapes and drinks. They also said that Jay texts and invites them, and their moms to the movies and concerts.

Discussion Questions

1. What initial actions would you take?
2. Is this enough information for reasonable suspicion of child abuse? If not, what information is required?
3. If you did not have reasonable suspicion, what clarifying questions would you ask?

Keep in Mind

District Policy

All employees with reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect *must* report the suspected abuse or neglect to a Child Protective Services Agency (CPSA) pursuant to the law and the *Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Requirements* bulletin.

Reasonable Suspicion Definition

Reasonable suspicion means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to contemplate a suspicion, based upon facts or allegations that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing from a person's training, education, and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect.

Clarifying Questions

An employee who does not have reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect may ask clarifying questions to help with the employee's determination of reasonable suspicion. If an employee, however, does have reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect, the employee *must* file a SCAR without further clarifying. Also, an employee with reasonable suspicion *must* file a SCAR even if the CPSA states "handle it administratively."

Required Steps for Filing a SCAR

Filing a SCAR consists of two steps:

- (1) Telephone call *must* be made immediately, or as soon as practically possible to a CPSA; and
- (2) Written report *must* be filed with a CPA within 36 hours of receiving the information. The CPSA will either be the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) or the local law enforcement agency. Generally, SCARs are filed with DCFS if the alleged perpetrator is in the home, and if the allegations involve an out-of-home perpetrator (e.g.: employee), the SCARs are filed with local law enforcement (e.g.: LAPD). However, the CPSA, not the mandated reporter, is responsible for ensuring that the report gets to the appropriate agency (P.C. section 11165.9)