

Category: 8000 STUDENTS	Policy Number: 8703
Policy Title: CHILD PROTECTION INVESTIGATIONS POLICY	Effective Date: November 15, 2006

Snake River School District 52 will cooperate with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in their investigations of possible child abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

This policy applies in all investigations whether or not the school district had reported the suspected abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

1. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

A. Abuse:

All school district personnel will provide information as requested by the Department of Health and Welfare including access to student permanent records.

B. Neglect:

All school district personnel will provide information requested by the Department of Health and Welfare based on their knowledge and observations of the child. Information derived solely from the student's permanent records or access to the permanent records can be made available if the nature of the neglect presents a health or safety emergency to the child. Idaho Code indicates that if the neglect is due to hospitalization, incarceration, or mental or physical incapacity of the parent, it may not be a health or safety emergency.

C. Abandonment:

All school district personnel will provide information requested by the Department of Health and Welfare based on their knowledge and observations of the child. Idaho Code does not include in the definition of Abandonment any requirements of danger to the child's health or safety. Therefore, release of information derived solely from the permanent records or access to the records may be in violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

2. USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

In all child protection investigations by the Department of Health and Welfare, school facilities will be made available to the investigator for conducting confidential interviews with the child. This should be done in a reasonable and prudent manner to expedite the investigation. A representative of the school may be present during the interview and may be required to testify in court.

REFERENCE: Policy 8700, "Child Abuse, Neglect or Abandonment Reporting"
Policy 8755, "Relationship Between the School and Law Enforcement Officials"
Policy 8760, "Relationship With Non-Custodial Parents"
Policy 8540, "School Records and Directory Information"
Procedure: 8540F1, "Request to Inspect School Records"