POLICY: ~~6~~Hx28:10-09

Responsible Executive: ~~-~~Vice President, Student Affairs

Policy Contacts: ~~-~~Assistant Vice President, Campus Safety and Services

Specific Authority: ~~-~~1001.64, F.S.

Law Implemented: ~~-~~1001.64, F.S.; ~~s.~~ 39.01, F.S.; 39.201, F.S.; 39.203, F.S.; 39.205, F.S.; SBOE Rule 6A-14.099

Effective Date: ~~04-23-2014~~10-29-2026

Date of Last Policy Review: ~~04-23-2014~~10-29-2026

Child Abuse Reporting

I. PURPOSE & INTENT

Any minor child, while on College property, who is not a Valencia College ("College") student or participant in a College-sponsored event must be supervised at all times by a parent or caregiver. To ensure the safety and well-being of minors on ~~Valencia~~ College campuses, and in compliance with Sections 39.201 and 39.205, Florida Statutes and State Board of Education (SBOE) Rule 6A-14.099 (links referenced in ~~section VII. "Related Documents"~~), ~~Valencia restates and establishes the following immediate~~the College shall implement procedures to establish reporting obligations with regard to observations of known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect of any child by a parent or caregiver while on College property or College-sponsored event wherever located.

~~II. DEFINITIONS~~

~~In accordance with SBOE Rule 6A-14.099 and for purposes of this Policy, applicable terms are defined as follows:~~

~~A. "Abuse," "Abandonment," "Neglect," "Caregiver," and "Child" are defined as set forth in Section 39.01, Florida Statutes.~~

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1. "Abuse" means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual abuse, injury, or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abuse of a child includes acts or omissions. Corporal discipline of a child by a parent or legal custodian for disciplinary purposes does not in itself constitute abuse when it does not result in harm to the child.

2. "Abandoned" or "abandonment" means a situation in which the parent or legal custodian of a child or, in the absence of a parent or legal custodian, the caregiver, while being able, has made no significant contribution to the child's care and maintenance or has failed to establish or maintain a substantial and positive relationship with the child, or both.

3. "Child" means any unmarried person under the age of 18 years who has not been emancipated by order of the court.

4. "Neglect" occurs when a child is deprived of, or is allowed to be deprived of, necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment or a child is permitted to live in an environment when such deprivation or environment causes the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired or to be in danger of being significantly impaired.

B. The term "Administrator" means the following high level personnel who have been assigned the responsibilities of college-wide or campus-wide academic or administrative functions, who serve Valencia College with the title of: College President; Campus Provost; Executive Dean; Vice President; Special Assistant to the President; Chief Information Officer; Chief Operating Officer; Assistant General Counsel; Assistant Vice President, Safety and Security; Senior Director, Safety & Security; Assistant Vice President, Holistic Support; Assistant Vice President, Human Resources; and Internal Auditor.

C. The term "Law Enforcement Agency" means the unit of the college which is vested with the authority to bear arms and make arrests, and whose primary responsibility is the prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of the penal, criminal, traffic or highway laws of the state. Valencia College does not have a "unit of the college which is vested with the authority to bear arms and make arrests" and therefore does not have a Law Enforcement Agency.

III. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Any Person. Section 39.201, Florida Statutes requires any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected, to report such knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Department of Children and Family Services (DCF). In addition to this reporting obligation, Section 39.205(1), Florida Statutes prohibits any person from knowingly and willfully preventing another person from meeting their reporting obligation to DCF. Any person may contact local law

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~~enforcement authorities to make a report of suspected child abuse at any time; however, this does not negate their statutory obligation to first report to DCF.~~

~~A. **"Administrators".** In addition to the mandates set forth in Sections 39.201 and 39.205, Florida Statutes (described in Section III.A. above) which apply to any person; Section 39.205(3), Florida Statutes requires Valencia Administrators (as defined above), upon receiving information from faculty, staff, or other institution employee of known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect committed on college property, or during a college-sponsored event or function, to report such knowledge or suspicion to DCF; and prohibits Valencia Administrators from knowingly and willfully preventing another person from doing so.~~

~~IV.~~II. SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

A. State Level Sanctions for Non-Compliance

Florida State Board of Education ("SBOE") sanctions for non-reporting or non-compliance are codified in Section 39.205, Florida Statutes and establish specific sanctions and processes for a review of a~~n~~ credible allegation of knowing and willful non-compliance and include a possible sanction of a fine of $1 million for each such failure to be assessed against the College in the event the SBOE determines that a College Administrator knowingly and willfully failed to report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the Florida Department of Children and Family Services ("DCF").

A person who is required to report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect and who knowingly and willfully fails to do so, or who knowingly and willfully prevents another person from doing so, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in Sections 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, Florida Statutes, which includes up to five (5) years imprisonment and a $5,000 fine. ~~-~~Details concerning the SBOE review and appeal process are codified in SBOE Rule 6A-14.099.

B. College Sanctions for Non-Compliance

Any employee who fails to comply with this Policy will be subject to the applicable criminal charges and penalties as described above. In addition, as this Policy is more inclusive and is specific to the ~~Valencia~~College, the College may impose additional direct ~~penalties~~ disciplinary action in accordance with college Policies and procedures up to ~~suspension and termination~~and including dismissal from employment. For more information, see College Policy 6Hx28: 3E-08 Disciplinary Action.

~~V.~~III. IMMUNITY

Any ~~Valencia~~ College Administrator or employee who makes a report in good faith to the Florida Abuse Hotline or law enforcement agency regarding known or suspected child abuse, abandonment or neglect including sexual abuse, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability. (Section 39.203, Florida Statutes)

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~~VI.~~IV. NON-RETALIATION

~~Valencia~~ The College prohibits retaliation against any individual because of a good faith report of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. In accordance with Section 39.203, Florida Statutes, a person who makes a ~~-~~child abuse, abandonment, or neglect report shall have a civil cause of action for appropriate compensatory and punitive damages against any person who causes detrimental changes in ~~-~~the employment status of such reporting person by reason of ~~his or her~~their making such ~~-~~report~~.~~

~~VII.~~V. The College President may adopt procedures to implement this policy.

Policy History:

Adopted 4-23-14; Amended 10-29-2026

Related Documents:

(Note: All persons should verify current links and statutes for possible changes and/or updates)

Section 39.01, Florida Statutes.
Section 39.201, Florida Statutes.
Section 39.203, Florida Statutes.
Section 39.205 Florida Statutes.
SBOE Rule 6A-14.099
College Policy 6Hx28: 3E-08 Disciplinary Action

Procedures:

I. DEFINITIONS

In accordance with SBOE Rule 6A-14.099 and for purposes of this Policy, applicable terms are defined as follows:

A. "Abuse," "Abandonment," "Neglect," "Caregiver," and "Child" are defined as set forth in Section 39.01, Florida Statutes.

1. "Abuse" means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual abuse, injury, or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abuse of a child includes acts or omissions. Corporal discipline of a child by a parent or legal custodian for disciplinary purposes does not in itself constitute abuse when it does not result in harm to the child.

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2. "Abandoned" or "abandonment" means a situation in which the parent or legal custodian of a child or, in the absence of a parent or legal custodian, the caregiver, while being able, has made no significant contribution to the child's care and maintenance or has failed to establish or maintain a substantial and positive relationship with the child, or both.

3. "Caregiver" means the parent, legal custodian, permanent guardian, adult household member, or other person responsible for a child's welfare.

4. "Child" or "youth" means any unmarried person under the age of eighteen (18) years who has not been emancipated by order of the court.

5. "Neglect" occurs when a child is deprived of, or is allowed to be deprived of, necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment or a child is permitted to live in an environment when such deprivation or environment causes the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired or to be in danger of being significantly impaired.

B. The term "Administrator", as defined by SBOE Rule 6A-14.099, means the following high level college employees who have been assigned the responsibilities of college-wide or campus-wide academic or administrative functions: college presidents, campus presidents, provosts, senior/executive vice presidents, vice presidents, associate vice presidents, associate/vice provosts, chief human resource officer, deans, chief of police, campus safety officer, equal opportunity programs director, intercollegiate athletics director, internal auditor, Title IX coordinator and college compliance officer.

C. The term "Law Enforcement Agency" means the unit of a college which is vested with the authority to bear arms and make arrests, and whose primary responsibility is the prevention and detection of crime or the enforcement of the penal, criminal, traffic, or highway laws of the state. Valencia College does not have a "unit of the college which is vested with the authority to bear arms and make arrests" and therefore does not have a Law Enforcement Agency.

II. COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS OF REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

A. **Report to Safety and Security Services**: Any member of the College community who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is or has been abused, abandoned, or neglected while on College property or at a College sponsored event must immediately report such knowledge or suspicion to Safety and Security Services (see list of contact numbers in Appendix A). Upon receipt of such report, Safety and Security Services will coordinate with other appropriate College Administrators and the Office of Policy and General Counsel for further evaluation of circumstances and action as deemed necessary.

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1. **Any Person:** Section 39.201, Florida Statutes requires any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected, to report such knowledge or suspicion to DCF. In addition to this reporting obligation, Section 39.205(1), Florida Statutes prohibits any person from knowingly and willfully preventing another person from meeting their reporting obligation to DCF. Any person on College property or at a College sponsored event must contact Safety and Security Services to make a report of suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect at any time for further evaluation of circumstances and action as deemed necessary.

B. **College Administrators:** Upon receiving and evaluating information of known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect committed on College property, or during a College-sponsored event, College Administrators (as defined in Procedures Section I.B. above) must immediately notify the Office of Policy and General Counsel to facilitate the issuance of a report of such knowledge or suspicion to DCF and College Administrators are prohibited from knowingly and willfully preventing another person from reporting such allegations. The College may contact local law enforcement authorities to make a report of suspected child abuse at any time; however, this does not negate the College's statutory obligation to first report to DCF if they know, or have reasonable cause to suspect, that any of the following has occurred:

1. Child abuse, abandonment, or neglect by a parent or caregiver, which includes, but is not limited to, when a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare or when a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide such supervision and care.

2. Child abuse by an adult other than a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare.

III. Department of Children and Families Contact Information

Local and State contact information should be verified for updates; however, for reference, at the time of ~~promulgation~~initial reporting and evaluation of information, the reporting options for DCF by the College are as follows: ~~contact information for DCF is provided below~~:

Florida Department of Children and Family Services (DCF):
Telephone: 1-800-962-2873
TTY: 711 or 1-800-955-8771
Fax: 1-800-914-0004 (Advisable to retain receipt of fax transmission)
Web Address for Florida Abuse Hotline:
https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/abuse/abuse-hotline/how-report-abuse

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Procedure History:

Adopted 4-23-14; Amended 10-29-2026

Date of Last Procedure Review: ~~04-24-2014~~10-29-2026

Related Documents:

Appendix A: Safety and Security Services (Campus Security) Contact Numbers

Campus	Phone Number
Accelerated Skills Training – Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (contact Osceola Campus)	407-582-4000
Accelerated Skills Training – Downtown Center for Accelerated Training (contact West Campus)	407-582-1000
East Campus	407-582-2000
Lake Nona Campus	407-582-7000
Osceola Campus	407-582-4000
Poinciana Campus	407-582-6500
School of Public Safety	407-582-8000
School of Public Safety Satellite Training Locations (Fire Rescue Training Centers, Elevated Safety, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority)	407-582-8000 (during normal operating hours) 407-582-1000 (outside normal operating hours)
UCF/Downtown Campus (contact West Campus)	407-582-1000
Valencia College Heart of Florida United Way Center for Accelerated Learning – Northwest Orlando	407-582-3600
West Campus (24 hours per day/7 days per week)	407-582-1000
Winter Park Campus	407-582-6000

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