



Policy Title:	Protection of Minors
Policy Number:	UNIV-412
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Policies Superseded:	PRES-109
Policy Management Area(s):	Title IX

SUMMARY:

Coastal Carolina University is a community dedicated to fostering learning and, as such, will not tolerate the abuse of minors in any form. The purpose of this policy is to educate University stakeholders about the laws and resources available to prevent and identify child abuse. It shall be the duty of every member of the University community to report suspected child abuse via the procedure described in this policy as soon as is practicably possible.

Minors, or individuals less than 18 years old, make up only a fraction of the Coastal Carolina University community as students and visitors, yet they are a part of the University's formal and informal activities and programs, academic and otherwise, year round.

POLICY:

I. Universal Duty to Report

All members of the Coastal Carolina University community, including faculty, staff, students, volunteers, visitors and guests, have a responsibility to assist in maintaining a safe campus environment, regardless of the statutory mandate, and therefore are obligated to report suspected child abuse. Reports must be made to the Department of Public Safety and to one's own supervisor or Vice President, if applicable, as soon as possible. The Department of Public Safety is charged under the law (SC ST SEC 63-7-320) with further notification of the appropriate authorities and to conduct, participate in, or aid with any necessary investigation.

Failure to report suspected child abuse as soon as possible could result in separation from Coastal Carolina University. Failure of those receiving the initial report to alert the appropriate authorities and ensure an investigation in a timely manner may also result in separation.

Any case of suspected child abuse shall be reported to:

- A. The Department of Public Safety via one of the methods listed below:
 - 1. The emergency phone number (843-349-2911) or extension 2911 from a campus phone;
 - 2. The non-emergency phone number (843-349-2177) or extension 2177 from a campus phone;
 - 3. The tip line, via text message or voicemail, at (843-349-8477);
 - 4. The online anonymous reporting form https://www.coastal.edu/services/safety_and_security/publicsafety/policedivision/anonymousreporting/; or
 - 5. From any phone at any location by dialing 911.
- B. The appropriate supervisor, Department Head or Vice President, if the witness to the suspected child abuse is an employee of the University.
- C. Those mandated by law to report suspected child abuse do so orally via telephone or in person (SC ST SEC 63-7-310).

II. Training the Community About Child Abuse

- A. A child or minor is any person under the age of 18. Child abuse could include any of the following:
 - 1. Infliction of, or actions or non-actions which present a substantial risk of, a physical or mental injury; or
 - 2. Commission of, or actions or non-actions which present a substantial risk of, a sexual offense against a child; or
 - 3. Failure to supply a child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, supervision appropriate to the child's age and development, or health care (SC ST SEC 63-7-20).
- B. Faculty and staff shall participate in annual training, specific to the employees' duties, to learn the signs and types of child abuse, the universal duty to report at Coastal Carolina University, and the University's expectations of appropriate conduct for faculty, staff and students who interact with minors in any capacity.

III. Tracking of All Events Involving Minors

The University will develop a convenient and comprehensive mechanism for approving and tracking **ALL** events that include the participation of minors in any capacity. This includes University-sponsored or endorsed programs, as well as any events sponsored by other individuals or organizations that have obtained permission to use University facilities, that take place on the University's main campus or its affiliated facilities, those that occur off campus, and those which involve an overnight component. Conference Services will be responsible for developing and making

available the tracking mechanism and for maintaining the records of all events involving minors. Requests for approval of any event involving minors must be submitted and granted prior to the event or activity.

IV. Governance of Horry County Schools Scholars Academy Students

The conduct of Horry County Schools Scholars Academy students will be governed by Horry County Schools' policies at all times and will not necessarily be subject to pre-approval and tracking as per this policy.

V. Violations of Relevant Law or of this Policy

Violations of the relevant law or of this policy, including failure to live up to the duty to report, which may be committed by faculty, staff, students, volunteers and/or guests, including the parent of an affected minor, will be dealt with severely and may result in complete separation from Coastal Carolina University, by termination for employees and by dismissal for students. Adjudication of such violations and the assignment of remedies or sanctions will be governed by existing University policy.

VI. Annual Notification to the Campus

On an annual basis, the Office of the President will notify the campus community about this policy, the universal duty to report at Coastal Carolina University, the mechanisms for reporting suspected child abuse, and the responsibility of departments to submit information about events involving minors to Conference Services.