

MEMORANDUM

TO: All EWU Employees and Student Employees
FROM: Mary Voves, Vice President for Business and Finance
DATE: October 2, 2012
SUBJECT: Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Recent changes to Washington State's child abuse reporting laws have extended reporting requirements to employees of higher education institutions. The law also requires that institutions ensure that employees have knowledge of their reporting responsibilities. This memo provides such notification to all current EWU employees. The specific requirements for EWU employees are described below.

1) **Mandatory Reporters:**

- a) **Designation:** EWU employees, including student employees, who are assigned to and/or work for an administrative, academic, or athletic department are designated as Mandatory Reporters under the law (RCW 26.44.030).
- b) **Responsibility:** Any EWU employee, who is a Mandatory Reporter, and who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect, shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency or the department of social and health services.
- c) **Timeliness of Reports:** The report must be made at the first opportunity, but in no case more than forty-eight hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has suffered abuse or neglect.

2) **Other Employees:**

- a) **Designation:** All other EWU employees, including student employees, who are not considered Mandatory Reporters as defined above.
- b) **Responsibility:** Any EWU employee or student employee, who is not a Mandatory Reporter, and who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect, must report such abuse or neglect immediately to the University Police.

3) **Governing Laws:**

- a) RCW 26.44.30 and RCW 28B.10; changes effective June 7, 2012.
- b) **Purpose:** The Purpose of the Child Abuse Reporting Law is to protect children who have been non-accidentally injured, sexually exploited, or deprived of the right to minimal nurture, health, and safety by their parents, custodian, or guardian.

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- c) Intent: It is the law's intent that designated persons, who are in positions to identify children who are at risk from abuse and neglect, will report suspected child abuse and neglect so that the need for protective services can be assessed.

Attached is a brief guide related to child abuse and neglect in general and to the reporting laws. All EWU employees should familiarize themselves with the guide contents.

All new EWU employees, including student employees, will be provided a copy of this memo and its attachment. New employees will also be informed of these requirements as part of their employee orientation.

The University will be offering training for mandatory reporters throughout the year.

For more information and/or training please contact the University Police Department at 359-6310 or email tvancurler@ewu.edu.

Attachment
