

Pat Quinn
Governor



Richard H. Calica
Director

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

July 25, 2012

Dear Executive:

This letter is to inform you of important changes to state law concerning the legal obligations of personnel of institutions of higher education as mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect in Illinois. The start of the school year is also an opportune time to remind all of us of mandated reporters' ongoing duty under the law to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

Effective June 27, 2012, State of Illinois Public Act 97-0711 amended the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA) to mandate that all personnel of higher education institutions report cases of suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) toll-free, 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE (22873).

To support you in your implementation of the amendment to the reporting law, DCFS is collaborating with the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Community College Board, and Illinois Board of Higher Education to plan on-line training for all institutions of higher education in Illinois. The on-line training will enable your employees to learn what their role is as a mandated reporter, provide information on what to report, and guide them through how to make a report of suspected child abuse and neglect to DCFS.

To help coordinate the on-line training for the large number of additional mandated reporters, we are asking that each institution of higher education designate one person, preferably a member of the human resources (personnel) department, to coordinate the mandated reporter training of their employees with the DCFS Office of Training and Professional Development.

Please send the name and contact information of the designated person for your institution to the DCFS Office of Training at dcfstraining@illinois.gov. DCFS will work with that individual to plan and implement training and provide information and support to your institution of higher education.

Protecting children is a duty we all share. Thank you for your attention to this important information, and please contact us if we can assist you in any way to meet this critical obligation under the law. The DCFS Office of Training can be reached by calling 217-785-5689.

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