

Pennsylvania State Grange

Child Abuse Policy

<p>1. Authority</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6301 et seq</p>	<p>1.1 The Pennsylvania State Grange requires Grange volunteers to comply with identification and reporting requirements for suspected child abuse, as well as the training requirement for recognition and reporting of child abuse in order to comply with the Child Protective Services.</p>
<p>2. Definitions</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6344</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p>	<p>The following words and phrases, when used in this policy, shall have the meaning given to them in this section:</p> <p>2.1 Adult – an individual eighteen (18) years of age or older.</p> <p>2.2 Bodily injury - impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.</p> <p>2.3 Certifications – refers to the child abuse history clearance statement and state and federal criminal history background checks required by the Child Protective Services Law and/or the School Code.</p> <p>2.4 Child - an individual under eighteen (18) years of age.</p> <p>2.5 Child abuse - intentionally, knowingly or recklessly doing any of the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2.5.1. Causing bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2.5.2. Fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease which results in a potentially harmful</p>

Child Abuse Policy

<p>18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 7508.2</p> <p>42 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 9799.12, 9799.24</p>	<p>medical evaluation or treatment to the child through any recent act.</p> <p>2.5.3. Causing or substantially contributing to serious mental injury to a child through any act or failure to act or a series of such acts or failures to act.</p> <p>2.5.4. Causing sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any act or failure to act.</p> <p>2.5.5. Creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.</p> <p>2.5.6. Creating a likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any recent act or failure to act.</p> <p>2.5.7. Causing serious physical neglect of a child.</p> <p>2.5.8. Engaging in any of the following recent acts:</p> <p>2.5.8.1. Kicking, biting, throwing, burning, stabbing or cutting a child in a manner that endangers the child.</p> <p>2.5.8.2. Unreasonably restraining or confining a child, based on consideration of the method, location or the duration of the restraint or confinement.</p> <p>2.5.8.3. Forcefully shaking a child under one (1) year of age.</p> <p>2.5.8.4. Forcefully slapping or otherwise striking a child under one (1) year of age.</p> <p>2.5.8.5. Interfering with the breathing of a child.</p> <p>2.5.8.6. Causing a child to be present during the operation of methamphetamine laboratory, provided that the violation is being investigated by law enforcement.</p> <p>2.5.8.7. Leaving a child unsupervised with an individual, other than the child's parent, who the actor knows or reasonably should have known was required to register as a Tier II or</p>
---	--

<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p>	<p>Tier III sexual offender or has been determined to be a sexually violent predator or sexually violent delinquent.</p> <p>2.5.9. Causing the death of the child through any act or failure to act.</p> <p>2.5.10. The term child abuse does not include physical contact with a child that is involved in normal participation in physical education, athletic, extracurricular or recreational activities. Also excluded from the meaning of the term child abuse is the use of reasonable force by a person responsible for the welfare of a child for purposes of supervision, control or safety, provided that the use of force:</p> <p>2.5.10.1. Constitutes incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact in order to maintain order and control;</p> <p>2.5.10.2. Is necessary to quell a disturbance or remove a child from the scene of a disturbance that threatens property damage or injury to persons;</p> <p>2.5.10.3. Is necessary for self-defense or defense of another;</p> <p>2.5.10.4. Is necessary to prevent the child from self-inflicted physical harm; or</p> <p>2.5.10.5. Is necessary to gain possession of weapons, controlled substances or other dangerous objects that are on the person of the child or in the child's control.</p>
<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p>	<p>2.6. Perpetrator - a person who has committed child abuse and is a parent/guardian of the child, a spouse or former spouse of the child's parent/guardian, a paramour or former paramour of the child's parent/guardian, an individual fourteen (14) years of age or older who is responsible for the child's welfare or who has direct contact with children as an employee of child-care services, a school or through a program activity or service; an individual fourteen (14) years of age or older who resides in the same home as the child, or an adult who does not reside in</p>

<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p>	<p>the same home as the child but is related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity by birth or adoption to the child. Only the following may be considered a perpetrator solely based upon a failure to act: a parent/guardian of the child; a spouse or former spouse of the child's parent/guardian; a paramour or former paramour of the child's parent/guardian; an adult responsible for the child's welfare; or an adult who resides in the same home as the child.</p>
<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p>	<p>2.7. Person responsible for the child's welfare - a person who provides permanent or temporary care, supervision, mental health diagnosis or treatment, training or control of a child in lieu of parental care, supervision and control.</p> <p>2.8. Program, activity or service - any of the following in which children participate and which is sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Grange or one of the Pomona or Subordinate Granges under the Pennsylvania State Grange:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.8.1. A youth camp or program. 2.8.2. A recreational camp or program. 2.8.3. A sports or athletic program. 2.8.4. A community or social outreach program. 2.8.5. An enrichment or educational program. 2.8.6. A troop, club or similar organization.
<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p>	<p>Recent act or failure to act - any act or failure to act committed within two (2) years of the date of the report to the Department of Human Services of the Commonwealth or county agency.</p>
<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p>	<p>Routine interaction – regular and repeated contact that is integral to a person's volunteer responsibilities.</p>

<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p>	<p>Serious mental injury - a psychological condition, as diagnosed by a physician or licensed psychologist, including the refusal of appropriate treatment, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Renders a child chronically and severely anxious, agitated, depressed, socially withdrawn, psychotic or in reasonable fear that the child's life or safety is threatened.2. Seriously interferes with a child's ability to accomplish age-appropriate developmental and social tasks.
<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6303</p>	<p>Serious physical neglect - any of the following when committed by a perpetrator that endangers a child's life or health, threatens a child's well-being, causes bodily injury or impairs a child's health, development or functioning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A repeated, prolonged or egregious failure to supervise a child in a manner that is appropriate considering the child's developmental age and abilities.2. The failure to provide a child with adequate essentials of life, including food, shelter or medical care.
<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6344.2</p>	<p>Sexual abuse or exploitation - any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement or coercion of a child to engage in or assist another individual to engage in sexually explicit conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Looking at the sexual or other intimate parts of a child or another individual for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire in any individual.

<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6344.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Participating in sexually explicit conversation either in person, by telephone, by computer or by a computer-aided device for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification of any individual.c. Actual or simulated sexual activity or nudity for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification of any individual.d. Actual or simulated sexual activity for the purpose of producing visual depiction, including photographing, videotaping, computer depicting or filming. <p>The conduct described above does not include consensual activities between a child who is fourteen (14) years of age or older and another person who is fourteen (14) years of age or older and whose age is within four (4) years of the child's age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">2. Any of the following offenses committed against a child: rape; statutory sexual assault; involuntary deviate sexual intercourse; sexual assault; institutional sexual assault; aggravated indecent assault; indecent assault; indecent exposure; incest; prostitution; sexual abuse; unlawful contact with a minor; or sexual exploitation. <p>Volunteer - an unpaid adult individual who, on the basis of the individual's role as an integral part of a regularly scheduled program, activity, or service, is a person responsible for the child's welfare or has direct contact with children.</p>
--------------------------------------	--

<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6344</p>	<p>In accordance with policy, the Pennsylvania State Grange President or designee shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Require each applicant for volunteering to submit an official child abuse clearance statement and state and federal criminal history background checks (certifications) as required by law.2. Require each applicant to obtain and submit new certifications every sixty (60) months <p>Certification requirements for volunteers are addressed separately in Grange Policy "Volunteer Registry"</p>
<p>4. Guidelines</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6311</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6311</p>	<p><u>Duty To Report</u></p> <p>Volunteers shall make a report of suspected child abuse if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is the victim of child abuse under any of the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Volunteer comes into contact with the child in the course of employment, occupation and the practice of a profession or through a regularly scheduled program, activity or service.2. Volunteer is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child.3. A person makes a specific disclosure to a volunteer that an identifiable child is the victim of child abuse.4. An individual fourteen (14) years of age or older makes a specific disclosure to a volunteer that s/he has committed child abuse. <p>A child is not required to come before the volunteer in order for that individual to make a report of suspected child abuse.</p>

Child Abuse Policy

<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6311</p>	<p>A report of suspected child abuse does not require the identification of the person responsible for the child abuse.</p>
<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6318</p>	<p>Any person who, in good faith, makes a report of suspected child abuse, regardless of whether the report is required, cooperates with an investigation, testifies in a proceeding, or engages in other action authorized by law shall have immunity from civil and criminal liability related to those actions.</p>
<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6319</p>	<p>Any person required to report child abuse who willfully fails to do so may be subject to disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.</p>
<p>18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 4906.1</p>	<p>Any person who intentionally or knowingly makes a false report of child abuse or intentionally or knowingly induces a child to make a false claim of child abuse may be subject to disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.</p>
<p>18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 4958</p>	<p>Any person who engages in intimidation, retaliation, or obstruction in the making of a child abuse report or the conducting of an investigation into suspected child abuse may be subject to disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.</p>
<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6320</p>	<p>The Pennsylvania State Grange shall not discriminate or retaliate against any person for making, in good faith, a report of suspected child abuse.</p>
<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6305, 6311, 6313</p>	<p><u>Reporting Procedures</u></p> <p>If there is a reasonable belief that the child is in immediate or eminent danger or the act of abuse is currently occurring, call 911.</p> <p>Volunteers who suspect child abuse shall immediately make a written report of suspected child abuse using electronic technologies (www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis) or an oral report via the statewide tollfree telephone number (1-800-932-0313). A person making an initial oral report of suspected child abuse must also submit a written electronic report within forty-</p>

<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6305, 6311, 6313</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6305, 6311, 6313</p>	<p>eight (48) hours after the oral report. Upon receipt of an electronic report, the electronic reporting system will automatically respond with a confirmation.</p> <p>A volunteer who makes a report of suspected child abuse shall immediately, after making the initial report, notify the Pennsylvania State Grange President and if the initial report was made electronically, also provide the President with a copy of the report confirmation.</p> <p>When a report of suspected child abuse is made by a volunteer as required by law, the school district is not required to make more than one (1) report. An individual otherwise required to make a report who is aware that an initial report has already been made by a volunteer is not required to make an additional report. The person making an initial oral report is responsible for making the follow-up written electronic report within forty-eight (48) hours, and shall provide the Pennsylvania State Grange President with a copy of the report confirmation promptly after the written electronic report has been filed.</p> <p>When a report of child abuse is being made, the caller should be prepared with as much of the following information as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name and physical description of the child• Age or approximate age range of the child• Name, home address, and telephone number of legal guardian or parent of the child• Name or physical description of suspected child abuse perpetrator• Home address and telephone number of suspected child abuse perpetrator
---	--

<p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6311, 6346</p> <p>23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6368</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspected perpetrator’s relationship to the child• Description of the suspected injury to the child• Where the incident took place• Any concern for the child's immediate safety• Your relationship to the child• Your contact information, although you may report anonymously if you are a permissive reporter <p><u>Investigation</u></p> <p>The Pennsylvania State Grange President shall facilitate the cooperation with the Department of Human Services of the Commonwealth or the county agency investigating a report of suspected child abuse.</p> <p>Upon notification that an investigation involves suspected child abuse by an approved volunteer with the Pennsylvania State Grange, the Pennsylvania State Grange President shall immediately implement the following procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Pennsylvania State Grange President will notify the Pennsylvania State Grange Executive Committee and the Junior and Youth Directors (if appropriate)2. The volunteer accused in the investigation shall be immediately suspended from all Grange activities involving children. The Pennsylvania State Grange President will be responsible for informing the Grange Designated Reviewer in order to update the current approved volunteers list.
---	--

3. If the report is made during a Grange sponsored event, the volunteer will be immediately removed from their volunteer position.

Outcome

If the report of abuse is determined to be unfounded by the Department of Human Services of the Commonwealth or the county agency investigating, the volunteer may be reinstated after provide new background checks to the Pennsylvania State Grange President or designee (PA State Police Criminal History Report and PA Child Abuse History Certification, as well as Federal Criminal History Report if appropriate).

If the report of abuse is determined to be founded by the Department of Human Services of the Commonwealth or the county agency investigating, the volunteer will be permanently removed from the Volunteer Registry and will not be considered for reinstatement at any time.

References:

Endangering Welfare of Children – 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 4304

False Reports of Child Abuse – 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 4906.1

Intimidation, Retaliation or Obstruction in Child Abuse Cases –

18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 4958

Operation of Methamphetamine Laboratory – 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 7508.2

Child Protective Services Law – 23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6301 et seq.

Registration of Sexual Offenders – 42 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 9799.12, 9799.24