

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect: POLICY UPDATE

Administrative Policy Statement 11.8 has become [Executive Order 56](#), effective June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Reporting suspected child abuse or neglect is a critical issue warranting presidential leadership rather than delegated responsibility, hence its upgrade to an Executive Order.

The majority of the content from APS 11.8 remains the same in EO 56, with the following notable changes:

- The scope of reporting responsibilities is more explicitly stated in EO 56 for employees and volunteers. Employees are required to report suspected abuse “regardless of whether they are acting within the scope of their duties or not.” Volunteers are required to report suspected abuse or neglect “when they are acting within the scope and course of duties as directed by the University.” (see Section 2- Applicability)
- Abandonment has been added to the definition of Abuse and Neglect in EO 56, consistent with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) handbook on reporting suspected abuse or neglect. (see Section 3- Definitions)
- Employees and volunteers are encouraged to call 911 in the case of any emergency that warrants immediate intervention. (See Section 5- Reporting Process)The internal reporting and response process is streamlined and strengthened in EO 56. In the case that suspected child abuse or neglect occurs in a University program, regardless of location, or at a University facility, or if the suspected abuser is a University employee or volunteer, employees and volunteers will contact SafeCampus (in addition to , after reporting to the Police or DSHS). SafeCampus will initiate a coordinated University response, as warranted, to ensure proper safety, security, and administrative measures are taken. (see Section 5.A.2)- Reporting Process)

The diagram below depicts the reporting process per EO 56:

