

Child Protection | Decision Tree

For Principals and Board Directors



I am the Principal or Board Director of a school.

During the course of my engagement, I have become aware (complete the school report form), or I have received a report from a staff member or volunteer, that there is a reasonable suspicion that a child has been harmed or is likely to be harmed.

A child is being sexually abused or is likely to be sexually abused, or is the victim of a child sexual offence.
EGPA s366 & 366A; Criminal Code s229BC

NO

YES

A child is being harmed due to physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect, or that a child is likely to be harmed in such a way.
CPA s13E; and Accreditation Regulation s16(2)(a)



Immediately report to police and give a copy to the school's governing body.

SIGNIFICANT HARM TEST FULFILLED?
The child has suffered, is suffering, or is at an unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm.
Use the Online Child Protection Guide

Check if a report also needs to be made to Child Safety under the CPA.

YES

NO

PARENT TEST FULFILLED?
The child may not have a parent, willing and able, to protect them from harm.
Use the Online Child Protection Guide



IS THE HARM BEING CAUSED BY A TEACHER?
If so, you have additional notification obligations under the QCT Act.

YES

NO

Principal may refer to FaCC with or without consent under the CPA.

*CPA: Child Protection Act 1999
EGPA: Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
FaCC: Family and Child Connect
QCT: Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005
Accreditation Regulation – Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017*



Report to Child Safety as soon as reasonably practical.
CPA; and/or school policy

Disclaimer: This resource should be read in conjunction with the College's Reporting Concerns of Harm and Abuse Policy

Child Protection | Summary of Reporting Harm

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WHO	ABUSE TYPE	TEST	REPORT TO	LEGISLATION
All staff	Sexual	Awareness or a reasonable suspicion Sexually abused or likely to be sexually abused	Principal 'report to' police immediately, and provide a copy of the report to a director of the governing body immediately	EGPA, sections 366(2A) and (2B) and sections 366A(3) and (4)
Teacher	Sexual and physical	Significant harm; and Parent may not be willing and able	Confer with Principal, report to Child Safety	CPA, sections 13E and 13G
All staff	Physical, psychological, emotional, neglect, exploitation	Significant harm; and Parent may not be willing and able	Principal, through to Child Safety	Accreditation Regulations, section 16
All staff	Any	Not a level that is otherwise reportable to Child Safety, refer with consent	Principal, through to Family and Child Connect	CPA, sections 13B and 159M
Principal	Any	Not of a level that is otherwise reportable to Child Safety, refer without consent	Family and Child Connect	CPA, sections 13B and 159M
Any member of the public	Any	Significant harm; and Parent may not be willing and able	Child Safety	CPA, section 13A
Any adult*	A child sexual offence against a child by another adult	Reasonable belief and, at the relevant time, the child is or was: - under 16 years; or - a person with an impairment of the mind	Police	Criminal Code section 229BC
Employing authorities (Principal/Board)	Harm or likely harm due to the conduct of a teacher	When you start dealing with an allegation; and When you finish dealing with an allegation	Queensland College of Teachers	QCT, sections 76 and 77

*This obligation is fulfilled if the adult has already reported the information under any of the previous provisions, or believes on reasonable grounds that another person has done or will do so.

OTHER RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR DECISION MAKING

- [Online Child Protection Guide](#)
- [Traffic Light Resource for sexual behaviour in children and young people](#)
- [eSafety Commissioner - Toolkit for Schools](#)
- [Be You](#)
- [Headspace Schools](#)
- [National Association for Prevention of Child abuse and Neglect \(NAPCAN\)](#)
- [Queensland Family & Child Commission](#)
- [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#)

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