

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; Minors on Campus

RVC Administrative Procedure (2:10.030)

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A. Purpose

Rock Valley College shall fully comply with the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act ("ANCRA") (325 ILCS 5/1 et seq.) and Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 ("JCA") (705 ILCS 405/2-1 et seq.). The act requires employees of Rock Valley College to be mandated reporters for any incident where they believe a child is being abused or neglected.

B. Department and Primary Point of Contact

Department: Rock Valley College Police Department

Point of Contact: RVC Police – Chief of Police

C. Definitions

Mandated Reporters: ANCRA provides that all personnel of institutions of higher education are mandated reporters. 325 ILCS 5/4. Mandated reporters are required to immediately report to the Department of Children and Family Services ("DCFS") whenever there is **reasonable cause** to believe that a child with whom they have contact in their professional capacity may be **abused or neglected**.

D. Procedures

Students enrolled in an academic program leading to a position as a childcare worker, school service personnel, and/or education degree are also mandated reporters pursuant to ANCRA.

In addition to the mandated reporting requirements under ANCRA, under the requirements of Article II of the JCA, which addresses the responsibilities of supervision of a minor and their welfare, if a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to believe that a minor known to them in their professional or official capacity

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is being abused or neglected, as those terms are defined under Article II of the JCA, that mandated reporter must immediately report to DCFS.

Cooperation: Employees and students are required to cooperate in the investigation of any report made pursuant to ANCRA.

Immunity for Good Faith Reports: ANCRA provides immunity for anyone who makes a report in good faith.

No Retaliation: Retaliation against any employee, student, volunteer, or other individuals who makes a good faith report of abuse or neglect or who participates in any investigation of abuse or neglect under ANCRA is prohibited. Anyone found to have engaged in prohibited retaliation may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination, expulsion, and/or other sanctions.

Procedures to implement this policy will be published through the College's Human Resources Department and made available in that office, the Student Development office, and the College's website.

Minors on Campus: The College recognizes that minors may accompany adults during visits to campus. Rock Valley College's practice is to be respectful and supportive of the families and children of students, employees, and visitors. As an institution of higher education, the College provides educational and support services primarily to adult learners, although a variety of activities, classes, and programs are offered to minors. The College is a public institution, available to its students and the general public who may wish to use its facilities, learn about its services and programs, or attend functions on the campus. The general public has the right to use the College's facilities and to visit the College during normal hours of operation.

In general, the College does not supervise minors outside of officially sanctioned programs and activities, and neither the College nor its employees, agents, or students may accept responsibility to do so on behalf of the College. It is the position of the College that non-enrolled minors represent a potential disruption to the learning environment. The College accepts neither responsibility nor liability for accidents or injuries that may occur to a non-enrolled minor while on campus.

Responsibility and liability lie completely with the minor's parent or responsible adult.

Non-enrolled minors are not permitted in classrooms or student learning areas that have not been designated for juvenile student educational purposes. Minors shall not be routinely present at an employee's workplace or accompany a student to his/her classes (e.g., office, classroom, labs, etc.) in lieu of other childcare arrangements.

No student, employee, or visitor to the College shall leave a minor unattended at the College, including outside of classrooms where a parent or accompanying adult is

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attending an activity at the college, in campus buildings, on campus grounds, or in a vehicle.

Unattended minors who are on campus without a parent or accompanying adult may be asked by Rock Valley College Police to leave; may be referred to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS); or may be referred to the local police, depending upon the circumstances (e.g., child's age, address, behavior, etc.).

Reference: Board Report 6926, 7988

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