

Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting for Piedmont Regional Library System

Approved by Piedmont Regional Library Board of Trustees, October 2020

Under Georgia law, any person employed by or volunteering at an organization, public or private, that provides care, treatment, education, training, supervision, coaching, counseling, recreational programs, or shelter to children is a mandatory reporter of child neglect or abuse. (O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5). Failure to do so could result in fines or imprisonment.

Because the Library provides services to children, its employees are obligated under the mandatory reporting requirements of this law. In the event that an employee suspects that a child is in immediate danger, that employee should notify the police. In all other cases where abuse or neglect is suspected, the employee must notify the employee currently in charge of the building, who will in turn report the abuse to the county Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). If the person in charge is inaccessible or for some reason the employee is unable to communicate with him or her in a timely manner, the employee should make the report directly to the county DFCS.