

## **New Law Effective October 1, 2012 - Mandatory Reports of Child Abuse**

### **Institutional Requirement**

On October 1, 2012, a state law goes into effect that requires a state university **ADMINISTRATOR**, upon receiving information from another institution employee, to report known or suspected child abuse, neglect or abandonment (including physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse) that occurred on university property or at a university sponsored event directly to the Department for Children and Families (“DCF”) via the Florida Abuse Hotline at **(800) 962-2873** or via myflfamilies.com.\* Children are people (including students and others) under 18 years old.

- The Board of Governors has defined **ADMINISTRATORS** as the following high level personnel who have been assigned the responsibilities of university-wide academic or administrative functions:

- university president
- provost
- senior/executive vice presidents
- vice presidents
- associate/vice provosts
- associate vice presidents
- deans
- chief of police
- equal opportunity programs director
- intercollegiate athletics director
- internal audit director
- Title IX coordinator
- university compliance officer

### **Institutional Penalties for Failure to Report**

If a state university **ADMINISTRATOR** knowingly and willfully fails to report or prevents another from reporting known or suspected child abuse, neglect or abandonment committed on university property (whether or not in a UF activity) or at a university sponsored event, the university will be subject to a **ONE MILLION DOLLAR FINE** for each failure. The law provides that the DCF will determine whether child abuse, neglect or abandonment occurred; university administrators must report, even if there is a suspicion.

*(\*Note that, in addition to the above institutional requirements, **all** persons in Florida have an independent, individual obligation to report **known or suspected** child abuse, neglect, and abandonment to the DCF Hotline at (800) 962-2873 or via [myflfamilies.com](http://myflfamilies.com). The abuser can be anyone, not just a parent or caretaker, including, if the abuse is sexual in nature, another child. Knowing and willful failure to report constitutes a third-degree felony.)*

A training video is now available on the University Human Resource Services web site at the following link. Please feel free to share with others in your area. While they may not be considered as an administrator for purposes of this law, every individual in Florida has a requirement to report under the law as a citizen.

<http://www.hr.ufl.edu/policies/policies.asp#abuse>