

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.7(a) - *The Professional Standards Commission shall establish a state mandated process for students to follow in reporting instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student which shall not prohibit the ability of a student to report the incident to law enforcement authorities. Each local school system shall be required to implement and follow such state mandated process and shall include the mandated process in student handbooks and in employee handbooks or policies.*

Student Reporting of Alleged Sexually Inappropriate Behavior

(a) Any student (*or parent or friend of a student*) who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.

(b) Any teacher, counselor or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or otherwise to the Head of Schools or Head of Schools' designee, and shall submit a written report of the incident to the Head of Schools or Head of Schools' designee within 24 hours. *If the Head of Schools is the person accused of the sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the highest ranking Human Resources officer in the organization (Manager/Director/Coordinator) who must then forward that report to the Chairman of the Genesis Board of Directors.*

(c) If the Head of School or Head of Schools' designee receives a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5, he/she shall make an oral report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report in writing, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Reports of acts of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by the Head of Schools (or designee). If the investigation of the allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of sexual misconduct is valid, the Head of Schools (or designee) shall make an immediate written report to the Professional Standards Commission Ethics Division.

<p>"Sexual abuse" means a person's employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing any minor who is not that person's spouse to engage in any sexual act as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5.</p>
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