

AB 1432: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015 REQUIRED ANNUAL TRAINING OF MANDATED REPORTERS

On September 29, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 1432 (Chapter 797, Statutes of 2014). This new law will go into effect on January 1, 2015, and will require California school districts to annually train mandated reporters on their child abuse reporting obligations under the law.

TRAINING AND TRACKING REQUIREMENTS

AB 1432 will impose the mandated reporter training obligation on all school districts, county offices of education (COEs), state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by the California Department of Education (CDE), and charter schools and their school personnel in California. Those agencies will be required to do all of the following:

- (1) Annually train employees and persons working on their behalf who are mandated reporters under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) on their abuse and neglect reporting requirements.
- (2) Train new employees and persons working on their behalf who are mandated reporters within six (6) weeks of each person's employment.
- (3) Develop a process for all persons required to receive training under the law to provide proof of completing this training within the first six (6) weeks of each school year or within six (6) weeks of that person's employment.

While the law does not specifically address post secondary education, it is recommended that community colleges, particularly those with child development centers (CDCs), adopt these training obligations as a best practice and to help prevent and mitigate child abuse and molestation claims.

TRAINING CONTENTS

The law requires agencies to use an online training module to be developed jointly by the CDE and the California Department of Social Services or another method used in its place. Those agencies that use another method must report the method to the CDE. The law requires that the training instruct school personnel in the detection of child abuse and neglect and the proper action that school personnel should take in suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. It also requires that the training include information that the failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect, as required by Section 11166 of the California Penal Code, is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six (6) months confinement in a county jail, a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both.

KEENAN SAFESCHOOLS

Keenan SafeSchools and Keenan SafeColleges are online safety training and tracking systems designed specifically for education agency employees. All courses are written by expert authors and are set in scholastic environments. All trainings within the Keenan SafeSchools/Keenan SafeColleges programs are tracked through

a learning management system so it is easy to assign the Mandatory Reporting courses and capture completion reports.

Currently Keenan Safe Schools/Safe Colleges offers several courses on recognizing and reporting child abuse, covering the following topics:

- Information on the different types of child abuse/child maltreatment
- Training scenarios for physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse
- Indicators to assist in identifying abuse and neglect
- Laws regarding mandatory reporting of child abuse
- Who is a Mandated Reporter
- Reporting: how to report, where to report, the SCAR report and where to find it
- Legal responsibilities of reporting and handling student disclosures
- Penalties for not reporting
- Where to get more information on child abuse prevention

Presently, we are awaiting guidance from the CDE as to its training module requirements. Once that guidance is published, we will ensure that our training will be fully compliant with the standards set by the CDE.

SAFER (SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION FOR EXCESS RISK)

Schools Association for Excess Risk (SAFER) is an excess property and liability Joint Powers Authority (JPA) program with more than 2.5 million ADA/FTEs. In response to the rise in child abuse claims for California education agencies, SAFER and its participating members (Northern California ReLiEF, Southern California ReLiEF and the Statewide Association of Community Colleges) have been proactive in preparing and supporting members to prevent and mitigate child abuse and molestation claims. SAFER provides its members no cost access to online training through Keenan SafeSchools and SafeColleges, as well as access to child abuse and mandatory reporting posters and other resources through Keenan's Abuse Prevention Center (<http://www.keenan.com/schools-colleges/property-liability/abuse-prevention-center/>).

For questions regarding this *Briefing*, please contact your Keenan Account Manager.

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