

The Tennessee Law on Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse

All members of the University community are responsible for compliance with this law. For information on how to identify and report violations of this law, please refer to the Department of Children's Services website at <http://www.tn.gov/youth/childsafety.htm>. The following is a summary of those requirements: (For the purposes of this law, a child is defined as a person under 18 years of age.)

Tennessee law mandates reporting by any person who has knowledge of physical or mental harm to a child if: a) the nature of the harm reasonably indicates it was caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect; or b) on the basis of available information, the harm reasonably appears to have been caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect.

Tennessee law also mandates reporting by any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been sexually abused, regardless of whether it appears the child sustained injury as a result of the abuse.

To report child abuse or child sexual abuse, call 911 if the situation is a life-threatening emergency. In other cases, a report must be immediately made to one of the following four authorities:

- The Tennessee Department of Children's Services (reports can be made by calling the Central Intake Child Abuse Hotline at 1-877-237-0004);
- The sheriff of the county where the child resides;
- The chief law enforcement official of the city where the child resides; or
- A judge having juvenile jurisdiction over the child.

NOTE: The UT Martin Department of Public Safety is not included in the list of authorities. Reporting to University Police, a supervisor, or any other University official or employee does not satisfy an individual's duty to report child abuse or child sexual abuse to one of the above listed authorities.

Any person who knowingly fails to make a report of child abuse as required by Tennessee Law, or any person who knowingly and willfully fails to report known or suspected child sexual abuse or who knowingly and willfully prevents another person from doing so, commits a Class A misdemeanor.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TENNESSEE LAW DESCRIBED IN THIS DOCUMENT:

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE : _____

PRINTED NAME: _____