

4.15.1 -- STUDENT RECORDS - "CHILD ABUSE"

Reports made and/or received by counselors or other personnel of the Van Buren School District under the provisions of A.C.A. 12-12-500 through A.C.A. 12-12-515 are confidential and must be treated with great care.

State law allows Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police to interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected child abuse. The principal or the principal's designee shall not attempt to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student by court order, or person acting in loco parentis on student enrollment forms if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, guardian, custodian, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment.

In the Van Buren School District, counselors making or receiving such reports shall be responsible for seeing that their confidentiality is protected by keeping them in a special file in the counselor's office.

The permanent record of the student(s) who are subjects in these reports may be marked to indicate that special information about them exists in a special file, but under no circumstance shall this information be made a part of their permanent file.

Ref: A.C.A. 12-12-500-515

Act 450 of 1991

Approved by Board of Education 11/12/91

Amended by Board of Education 7/18/11