

Dear Colleagues:

**\*\*REPORT CHILD ABUSE \*\***

As shown by the news of the past year, child abuse continues to be a terrible societal problem that unfortunately extends to colleges and universities. In addition, recent laws have broadened the legal requirements for reporting child abuse to the proper authorities.

The 2012 Washington Legislature enacted Senate Bill 5991, which requires **all** higher education employees to report suspected child abuse or neglect. As of June 7, 2012, "administrative, academic and athletic department" employees, including student employees, now have the mandatory duty to report such information directly to law enforcement or the Department of Social and Health Services. These employees join K-12 teachers, healthcare professionals, and others who have long had this mandatory duty to report. All other higher education employees (those who are not administrative, academic, or athletic department employees) are required to report suspected abuse to designated supervisors within 48 hours.

If you suspect child abuse may be occurring, you must come forward and report it. For those employees with a mandatory duty to file direct reports (administrative, academic, and athletic employees), contact information for police and DSHS is listed below. All other employees are strongly encouraged to immediately report any suspected abuse to law enforcement and then to your supervisor, dean, chancellor, or department head. All employees may also file reports to DSHS.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

### **Reporting Suspected Child Abuse to Police or DSHS**

DSHS Child Protective Services offers several methods to report abuse:

- Pullman Campus: (509) 397-5040; after hours call 1-800-562-5624
- Daytime: Find your local office number to report abuse or neglect in your area
- 1-866-ENDHARM (1-866-363-4276); this is Washington State's toll-free, 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week hotline that will connect you directly to the appropriate local office to report suspected child abuse or neglect

You can also report suspected abuse to the police by dialing 911.

Sincerely,

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