



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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TO: CCAC ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENT AND VOLUNTEER WORKERS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AND CONTRACT SERVICE PROVIDERS

CC: QUINTIN B. BULLOCK, PRESIDENT

FROM: TONY DITOMMASO
VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL

DATE: MARCH 27, 2015

RE: CHANGES TO MANDATORY REPORTING OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE PENNSYLVANIA CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES LAW (“CPSL”)

Dear Colleagues:

Recently, the Pennsylvania Legislature enacted amendments to Pennsylvania’s Child Protective Services Law, 23 Pa. C.S. §§ 6301 et seq. (the “CPSL”) which will have a significant impact on institutions of higher education throughout the Commonwealth. Among other changes, the revised CPSL expands the scope of individuals who are considered mandatory reporters of child abuse, and sets forth specific requirements for the manner in which suspected abuse must be reported.

Under the revised CPSL, all College employees, including administrators, faculty, support staff, student workers, volunteers, and independent contractors and their employees, are considered mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse. As a mandatory reporter, you must ***immediately file a report directly with Pennsylvania’s ChildLine service*** whenever, in the course of your employment or affiliation with the College, you have reasonable cause to suspect that a child (defined as any individual under 18 years of age) is or has been the victim of child abuse. The duty to report is triggered even in situations in which the child in question has not come directly before you, or if the person responsible for the suspected child abuse is unknown or unidentified. The protection of privilege does not apply to or otherwise limit the duty to report under the revised CPSL. Individuals who make reports in good faith under the CPSL are subject to immunity from both civil and criminal liability.

Written reports may be submitted via ChildLine’s online reporting portal at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis, or verbally by calling ChildLine at 1-800-932-0313. After making the report to ChildLine, mandated reporters are then required to notify the undersigned, as General Counsel for the College, or the College’s

Civil Rights Compliance Officer, Sumana Misra-Zets (412-237-4534;smisra@ccac.edu), who will coordinate the College's efforts to cooperate in the investigation of the report. Please also note that if you choose to make a verbal report via the phone hotline, you must also submit a written report within 48 hours to county children and youth services agency assigned to the report, utilizing form CY-47. This form can be obtained under the "Forms" tab at www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov or from Allegheny County Children and Youth Services directly. If a report is made electronically, no CY-47 is required to be completed.

We are currently working to formalize policies and procedures that will serve to aid all members of the College community in knowing and understanding their obligations under the CPSL, and will separately communicate those once they are finalized. However, in the interim, we wanted to provide each of you with this important summary of the changes to the mandatory reporter law to inform and guide you. Additional information on the mandatory reporter requirements of the CPSL can be found in the attached FAQ's published by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and on the following website: www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov.

Finally, please be advised that the revised CPSL also sets forth specific training mandates on how to recognize and report child abuse for certain licensed professionals. Completion of this training will be a condition of initial licensure or renewal for these professions and certificated occupations. Additional information on these mandatory training requirements is attached to this notice, and can also be found on the www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov website.

I thank you for your time and attention to this important topic, and again encourage you to contact me should you have any questions about mandatory reporting or the CPSL.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SMZ", is located at the bottom left of the page.