

UAM OPERATING PROCEDURE 297.1

RE: Protection of Minors on Campus

May 1, 2012

Revised: January 27, 2020

The University of Arkansas at Monticello is committed to a safe and secure environment for all its faculty, staff, students, and visitors, including minor-aged children who participate in programs that may be connected with the University.

Further, The Child Maltreatment Act 12-12-501 and Act 6-61-133 requires mandated reporting (See Appendix A) by University employees or volunteers. Mandated reporting includes programs, camps, or activities that involve minor-aged children that University units operate, host, or permit third parties to use University facilities. This law also prohibits any person from requiring prior permission, or prohibiting a person from, making a report of suspected child maltreatment. A person, acting in good faith, who makes a report of suspected maltreatment, is immune to civil or criminal liability for making the report. The University prohibits retaliation against any person who makes a good faith report of child maltreatment.

“The University will make training available regarding child maltreatment and mandated reporters”. Effective January 2013, the training website is:  
<https://ar.mandatedreporter.org/>.

Units that operate programs, camps, or activities that involve minor-age children should provide training to employees, volunteers, and students who interact with minors. Units that operate facilities or locations that are frequented by minors and where inappropriate interactions could occur should consider whether additional measures are needed. Examples might include strictly limiting or prohibiting staff from being alone with minor children, especially in a place that is isolated or not easily visible to others.

Further, failure to report suspected child maltreatment by a mandated reporter may have civil and/or criminal consequences. Questions regarding mandated reporting should be directed to the Office of Academic Affairs, 870-460-1032.

The following steps will be taken if any University employee or volunteer reasonably suspects or observes child maltreatment.

1. Immediately report the suspected maltreatment to the Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-482-5964). The hotline is manned 24/7 by a team of operators.
2. Report the suspected child maltreatment to the University Police Department at 460-1000 (emergency number) or 460-1083 immediately after the Hotline call or report is completed. The University Police Department will coordinate with local and state official law enforcement and will notify appropriate University personnel.

The University of Arkansas System and the University of Arkansas at Monticello have adopted and begun implementing policies requiring certain types of background checks based on job duties. It is important for all units with programs or personnel involving care or supervision of minors to review and ascertain whether they have identified all positions (including part time and student worker positions) that must be subjected to criminal background checks (including sex offender checks) as part of the hiring process.

Questions regarding background checks may be directed to the Business Manager at 870-460-1173.

## APPENDIX A

### Mandated Reporters

Arkansas Code § 12-18-402 (a) requires certain public officials, including “school officials,”<sup>1</sup> to report instances of suspected child maltreatment. The law requires such “mandated reporters” to report if they: (1) have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to child maltreatment or has died as a result of child maltreatment or (2) observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in child maltreatment.

Arkansas Code § 12-18-103(6) defines “child maltreatment” as “abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, or abandonment.”

A March 2012 regulation issued by the Arkansas Department of Human Services indicates that “school officials” required to report maltreatment include “any person authorized by a school to exercise administrative or supervisory authority over employees, students or agents of the school,” and also includes “a volunteer exercising administrative or supervisory authority in a program conducted by a school.”<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, under the regulation, the definition of “school” includes any “[t]wo-year or four-year college or university.”<sup>3</sup> Failure to report child maltreatment by a mandated reporter may have civil or criminal consequences. Aside from persons that are required to report, the Arkansas Code provides that any person who has reasonable cause to suspect or observes child maltreatment may make a report.

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<sup>1</sup>Individuals designated as “mandated reporters” also include, but are not limited to, child care workers, nurses, medical personnel, resident interns, mental health professionals, peace officers, physicians, domestic abuse advocates, rape crisis advocates or volunteers, victim assistance professionals or volunteers, school counselors, social workers, and teachers. Ark. Code §12-18-402.

<sup>2</sup>Arkansas Dept. of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services, Policy and Procedures Manual Appendix I: Glossary.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.