

EXECUTIVE ORDER # 54

Relating to Supplemental Mandatory Reporting Requirements of Child Abuse and Neglect

WHEREAS, we must always be vigilant in protecting our children and creating a safe environment for them; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and best interests of our children are of chief concern, and it is appropriate and necessary that the State do everything within its means to ensure that suspected cases of abuse and neglect of our children are reported to the proper authorities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 48.981(2)(a), certain persons currently are required to report incidents of child abuse or neglect, including health practitioners, social workers, law enforcement officers, child care providers, counselors, school teachers, and school staff members; and

WHEREAS, current mandatory reporting laws do not require most college or university professors, administrators, coaches, or other college or university staff members to report cases of child abuse or neglect;

NOW THEREFORE, I, SCOTT WALKER, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. All University of Wisconsin System (UWS) professors, administrators, coaches, and other UWS employees shall report child abuse or neglect immediately if the employee, in the course of employment, observes an incident or threat of child abuse or neglect, or learns of an incident or threat of child abuse or neglect, and the employee has reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur.
2. A report shall be made, personally or by telephone, to one of the following:
 - a. the county department of social services or the county department of human services, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 48.02(2g);
 - b. in a county having a population of 500,000 or more, the county department of social services, the county department of human services, or a licensed child welfare agency under contract with the county department of social services or the county department of human services; or
 - c. the sheriff or the city, village, town, or university police department.
3. “Child” shall be defined as in Wis. Stat. § 48.02(2), “abuse” and “neglect” shall be defined as in Wis. Stats. § 48.02(1) and (12g), and “report” refers to a report under Wis. Stat. § 48.981(3)(a)(1).
4. A UWS employee who is a mandatory reporter under Wis. Stat. § 48.981(2)(a) shall comply with the requirements of the state mandatory reporter law and shall not be subject to this Order.
5. No UWS employee making a report under this Order in good faith may be discharged from employment, disciplined or otherwise discriminated against in regard to employment, or threatened with any such treatment, for so doing.
6. This Order shall continue in effect until amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the Governor, or duplicated, superseded, or terminated by operation of law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done in the City of Milwaukee this nineteenth day of December, in the year two thousand eleven.

SCOTT WALKER
Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State