



Credential Information Alert

DATE: December 1, 2014

NUMBER: 14-20

SUBJECT: Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

Summary:

Beginning on December 3, 2014, the Commission will require applicants who submit an initial or renewal application for credential online, or in paper form, to read and attest to a statement that outlines his or her responsibilities as a mandated reporter pursuant to the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act. This CIA provides information on how this will affect the application process for teaching and services credentials.

Key Provisions:

The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act requires each individual identified as a mandated reporter, including teachers and school service providers, to report whenever he or she, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect.

Beginning December 3, 2014, each educator submitting an application to the Commission for an initial credential or the renewal of an existing credential must verify he or she understands the duties imposed on the holder of a teaching or services credential by the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act.

The following statement will appear in the Commission's online application process and on the paper application Form 41-4 following the Professional Fitness Questions:

“As a document holder authorized to work with children, it is part of my professional and ethical duty to report every instance of child abuse or neglect known or suspected to have occurred to a child with whom I have professional contact.

I understand that I must report immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, by telephone to a law enforcement agency or a child protective agency, and will send a written report and any evidence relating to the incident within 36 hours of becoming aware of the abuse or neglect of the child.



I understand that reporting the information regarding a case of possible child abuse or neglect to an employer, supervisor, school principal, school counselor, coworker, or other person is not a substitute for making a mandated report to a law enforcement agency or a child protective agency.

I understand that the reporting duties are individual and no supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit my reporting duties.

I understand that once I submit a report, I am not required to disclose my identity to my employer.

I understand that my failure to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act under Section 11166 of the Penal Code is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail or by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

I acknowledge and certify that as a document holder, I will fulfill all the duties required of a mandated reporter.”

Applicants using the paper application Form 41-4 will be required to check the box “I agree” that will appear following the above statement. Applicants who fail to check the box on the paper application will have their applications returned to them with the following statement:

“You must verify by checking the box “I agree” that you have read and agree to the required duties of mandatory reporters under the provisions of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (Penal Code §11164ff).”

Applicants using the online application process will be required to check the box next to the statement, “I have read and understand my required duties under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (Penal Code §11164ff).” Applicants using the online application process who fail to check the box will not be allowed to complete the online application process until the box is checked.

Important Dates:

December 3, 2014

Background:

On July 9, 2014 Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 2560 into law. This measure amends section 44252 of the California Education Code, requiring the Commission to make specified changes to its application process for all credential types. Beginning on December 3, 2014, the Commission will require applicants who submit an initial or renewal application for a credential, whether online or by paper application form, to read and attest to a statement that outlines his or her responsibilities as a mandated reporter pursuant to the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act [Article 2.5 (commencing with §11164) of Chapter 2 of Title 1 of Part 4 of the Penal Code].



Source:

Assembly Bill 2560 (Chap. 110, Stats 2014)

Education Code 44252

References:

Application for Credential Authorizing Public School Service (Form 41-4)

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/414.pdf>

Application for Credential Authorizing Public School Service (Form 41-4) - *Instruction and Information Sheet*

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/414-instructions.pdf>

Contact Information:

The most direct method to receive a response to specific questions is by email to the Commission's Information Services Section at credentials@ctc.ca.gov. Place key words indicating the nature of your question in the subject line to allow the Commission to direct the email to the appropriate staff.

You may also contact the Commission by telephone at (916) 322-4974 Monday through Friday between 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time.