

Sexual Abuse Outcry Procedures

These procedures are written for the purpose of limiting the number of times a student who has made a sexual abuse outcry has to “tell the story”. It is such a difficult and stressful event to report, we want to be sure to respect and support the student’s emotional well-being as much as possible. We also want to be sure that we are protecting the student’s confidentiality and the integrity of statements that may be needed for any legal action in the future.

PROCEDURES: If the student makes the initial outcry to you:

1. As soon as you recognize that the situation being described by the student is a sexual assault outcry tell him/her that you want to be sure they get help.
2. Escort the student to the counselor. Do not send the student alone to the counselor, escort them or call for assistance.
3. After privately conveying to the counselor the nature of the outcry, leave the student with the counselor.
4. Immediately upon leaving the counselor’s office document the date, time, and exact words used by you and the student during the outcry. File these notes in your work files, so that you can refer to them in the event of future legal action.
5. You must keep all information revealed to you and any reference to the event confidential.

COUNSELORS: If the student makes the initial outcry to you:

1. Call the Tyler ISD police at phone number: 903-262-1111 to ask for assistance with a sexual assault outcry.
2. Stay with the student until the Tyler ISD Police Officer arrives. Reassure to the student that there will be help and that you know this is very difficult.
3. When the Tyler ISD Police Officer arrives, he/she will take responsibility for continuing the procedures.
4. As soon as possible, document by detailing the date, time, and exact words used by you and the student during the outcry. File these notes in your work files, so that you can refer to them in the event of future legal action.
5. You must keep all information revealed to you and any reference to the event confidential.
6. Communicate to your principal a brief summary of the situation.

The Tyler ISD Police Officer will determine:

1. Where did the incident occur? (to determine jurisdiction)
2. Who is the perpetrator? (to determine if CPS is needed)

Make sure as soon as the above questions are answered:

1. Call the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction.
2. The initial outcry witness must make a report to the Department of Family and Protective Services.

The Tyler ISD Police Officer will serve as the liaison between the school, CPS, and local law enforcement conducting the investigation.