

## Administrative Procedure 342

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### Family Violence

#### Background

Family violence and domestic assault are community problems and require community solutions. The staff of the district shall work with other community services to help stop the violence.

#### Procedure

1. Unlike child abuse, which has a clear-cut reporting requirement for all community members who work with children, reporting domestic assault is not mandatory by law.
2. Educators shall include the issue of family violence and domestic assault in the curriculum as appropriate.
3. Some students will show signs of living with family violence and will disclose these experiences to staff members.
4. Principals have a duty to use any school and community resources that are appropriate to develop a plan to deal with any disclosures. The principal will endeavour to provide the abused parent with an information package through the services of a supportive, non-threatening person in a safe meeting place.
5. Teachers have a responsibility:
  - 1) to be knowledgeable about the issue of abuse and to challenge the myths and attitudes that perpetuate the cycle of violence;
  - 2) to report any disclosure from a child to the principal;
  - 3) to teach the attitudes, knowledge and skills to assist in preventing abuse, assault, and violence in students' lives now and in the future; and
  - 4) to be supportive of children who are victims of violent homes by:
    - being aware of possible indicators of children from violent homes;
    - responding to any disclosure in a supportive, non-judgemental way; and
    - referring students to appropriate counselling services.

#### Legal Reference

*Ontario Regulation 298—Operation of Schools S. 11; S. 12; S. 20*