

# A Father's Justice

BREAKING THE SILENCE  
CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING

## The Scenario:

During a parent conference, Mr. Fuentes backhands his son across the mouth, bringing blood to the surface. What do you do?

## Discussion Begins

## What do you do?

**Do you report?** If so, to whom? If so, when? If you don't, what might happen to the son? To you? To your school? To LAUSD?

If you report and the Local Law Enforcement Agency or the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) tells you...

...to **handle it administratively**, what do you do next?

...**they will investigate**, what do you do next?



## Legal Response

The safety and well-being of every student must be the first and foremost priority for all educators. As such, immediate action should be taken to remove any child from any situation which threatens her/his safety or well-being.

The Local Law Enforcement Agency should be called and a Suspected Child Abuse Report filed immediately. To protect the student, you should send the student to another area of the campus or to the school nurse while the conference continues (stall for the police to arrive).

Since this is not an employee, the Local Law Enforcement Agency will most likely not tell you to handle it administratively.

### Listen

Seeing a parent treat his child this way can elicit a strong emotional reaction (i.e., anger). By remaining calm you have a better chance of diffusing the situation.

### Protect

This situation must be addressed. Take steps to ensure immediate safety by encouraging the parent and child to physically separate from each other, while you call for assistance. Following your school's safety plan and complying with your legal obligations is the best way that you can ensure immediate safety for all involved.

### Connect

Convey concern for the student's well-being. Every school site has protocols, systems, and resources to support and address student safety and well-being. This is an opportunity to become familiar with and use the procedures, policies, and resources at your work site.

### Model

Maintain a professional and calm level of emotions and reactions. Do not express shock or anger at the possible perpetrator or event.

### Teach

Inform the family that schools have an obligation to ensure everyone's safety while on campus.

## Emotional Support