

Teacher Justice

BREAKING THE SILENCE
CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING

The Scenario:

Mr. Peck constantly makes students who anger him do 200 push-ups. What do you do?

Discussion Begins

What do you do?

Is this Child Abuse?

Do you report? If so, to whom? If so, when? If you don't, what might happen to the students? 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

Assigning push-ups as discipline is considered corporal punishment which is illegal. A Suspected Child Abuse Report must be filed with either the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or the Local Law Enforcement Agency.

Other Considerations

If told to handle administratively, you should notify an administrator who will take steps to ensure that any inappropriate behavior ceases.

The administrator may hold a conference with Mr. Peck advising him of the illegality of his action and direct him not to use any form of physical punishment with students. Additionally, the administrator should report this to the Local District Operations Coordinator as well as Staff Relations. A conference memo with the assistance of Staff Relations should be generated.

The District could be sued as a result of this incident. At this time, the Local District Superintendent or Unit/Division Head must exercise discretion as to whether the employee should be removed from the school or work assignment, pending the investigation for the safety of students.

Listen

You may or may not have a strong emotional reaction (i.e., anger, sadness, guilt). However, listen to the interaction to be able to recall the exact language used. You may want to take notes to help with remembering details.

Protect

The situation must be addressed by following the legal response. Doing so is the best way to protect students and promote a safe learning environment.

Connect

Convey concern for the students' 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

This is an opportunity to familiarize yourself with the Abolition of Corporal Punishment Bulletin (BUL No. N-14).

Emotional Support