

# The Angry AP

BREAKING THE SILENCE  
CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING

## The Scenario:

You witness the Assistant Principal scream and use profanity towards a student. You've heard that this AP has done this with other students, but you haven't previously witnessed it. 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 students? To the AP? 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

Willful cruelty constitutes child abuse. While it is unlikely, it is not impossible, that a single verbal interaction with a student could create a reasonable suspicion of child abuse.

Accordingly, you must consider whether you have a reasonable suspicion that child abuse has occurred. If there is reasonable suspicion that child abuse occurred, 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

The AP's actions violate the Board resolution requiring respectful treatment of all persons on campus. You should notify the principal of any inappropriate conduct. The principal should address the matter and, if necessary, impose appropriate discipline.

### 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 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

Encourage students to speak to trusted adults if they experience inappropriate interaction with staff.

## Emotional Support