



Policy for Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse, Sexual Abuse, and Threats

Cincinnati Tradition supports our mission is to provide a unique, life-changing experience for men and women of all ages enriching their educational experience in the performing arts in which they develop as individuals and as performers. TRADITION is a competitive performing arts ensemble that maintains roughly 128 active members per year during the summer months through their participation in the arts.

With this comes the responsibility of providing a safe environment for the people who participate in our programs. That responsibility includes reporting suspected abuse, as well as threats of harm or danger to self or others. All 50 states have passed some form of a mandatory child abuse and neglect reporting law to qualify for funding under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act ("CAPTA"). These laws generally define "mandatory reporters" to include educators and persons who work in youth programs. Many states require "any person" who is aware of or who observes suspected abuse to report. TRADITION mandates the reporting of any reasonable, good faith suspicion of child abuse of any nature, and any threats of danger to self or others, including terroristic threats, to the appropriate authorities.

Any TRADITION employee, contractor, or volunteer who works in direct contact with youth is considered a mandatory reporter of child abuse, and has the responsibility to immediately report any suspected abuse of a child under the age of 18 to Ohio Child Protective Services.

This report is to be made by contacting Report Child Abuse and Neglect, either electronically at <https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/reportchildabuseandneglect.stm> or by calling 855-642-4453. The report shall remain confidential to the extent mandated by the appropriate state law.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has launched 855-O-H-CHILD (855-642-4453), an automated telephone directory that will link callers directly to a child welfare or law enforcement office in their county. Reports can be anonymous. Additionally, the state by state reporting hotline numbers may be found at www.capsli.org/hotlines.php for abuse that takes place in another state jurisdiction. Other helpful sites are www.childwelfare.gov and <https://www.d2i.org/>

Staff, contractors, and volunteers who become aware of suspected child abuse are required to submit a written report (see attached format) to the appropriate local child protective agency and/or law enforcement and TRADITION's Compliance Officer, Tom

Slade, TRADITION Compliance Officer at 513-543-1688 (voice or text) or CincinnatiTradition@gmail.com

There are no private or privileged communications between TRADITION staff, contractors, volunteers, and minors under age 18 when such communications concern child abuse, sexual abuse or neglect; or a child presents a risk of danger to self or others.

Threats of danger to self or others includes, but is not limited to, threats of suicide, observed inability or unwillingness to protect oneself from known risks, statements of intent to inflict harm on another or others, observed actual or attempted harm to another, etc. CAPTA mandates “minimum definitions” for child abuse and sexual abuse.

Abuse or neglect is any recent act or failure to act resulting in imminent risk of serious harm, death, serious physical harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation of a child (usually a person under the age of 18) by a parent or caretaker who is responsible for the child’s welfare.

Sexual abuse is defined as employment, use persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of a child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or any simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct; or rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children or incest with children.

Threshold Knowledge

The threshold or level of knowledge that triggers the duty to report varies from state to state. The level ranges from a mere “reasonable cause to believe” or a “reasonable suspicion” to requiring the reporter to “know or suspect,” a higher level of knowledge.

Immunity from Civil Liability or Criminal Prosecution

Any person who reports suspected child abuse in “good faith” is immune from criminal and civil liability as a result of such action.

Penalty for Failure to Report

Failure to adhere to these guidelines shall be cause for discipline which may include termination of employment and dismissal from participation in any TRADITION activities, programs and events. Such failure may also result in criminal or civil charges and penalties.

For Guidance or Assistance

If you are unclear about your reporting responsibilities or are in need of guidance or assistance, contact TRADITION’s Compliance Officer and the local reporting agency for more information.

REPORT OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR THREAT

Reporting Party Information

Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

Location (City, State/ Site): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Reporting Agency Notification

Name of Agency Notified: _____

Name of Person Contacted at Agency: _____

Date and Time of Call: _____

Telephone No: _____

Victim Information

Name of Victim: _____

Birth date or Approx. Age: _____

Sex: _____

Ethnicity: _____

Present Location of Victim: _____

Relationship of Victim to Suspected Abuser: _____

Involved Parties or Witnesses

Name & Relationship to Victim: _____
(Suspect? Y/N)

Name & Relationship to Victim: _____

