



MIKE HUNTER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 23, 2019

Sheriff Chris West  
Canadian County Sheriff's Office  
208 West Rogers  
El Reno, OK 73036

Dear Sheriff West:

With the recent changes to the law on how school employees report allegations of child abuse taking effect last month, I write to you for two reasons. First, to inform you of the amended law and second, to offer my office's resources to better protect children from neglect and abuse.

The law makes clear that every school employee who has reason to believe a student under the age of 18 is the victim of abuse or neglect to report the matter immediately to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and local law enforcement.

The requirements for law enforcement are as follows:

In reports required by subparagraph a or b of this paragraph, local law enforcement shall keep confidential and redact any information identifying the reporting school employee unless otherwise ordered by the court. A school employee with knowledge of a report required by subparagraph a or b of this paragraph shall not disclose information identifying the reporting school employee unless otherwise ordered by the court or as part of an investigation by local law enforcement... 2019 Okla. Sess. Laws CH.415

As chief law officer of the state, I am aware of the resource issues faced by our partner law enforcement agencies statewide and especially in rural areas.

For that reason, I have been in communication with newly appointed DHS Director Justin Brown to discuss the challenge this may present. He and I agree that we both want the requirement for law enforcement to be effective as well as manageable.

Accordingly, I have committed to Director Brown, as I am committing to you, that my office will deploy the resources necessary to help in any investigation involving child abuse cases in any school district throughout the state.

When you find yourself in a situation where you need our assistance, you can reach us by calling our Chief Agent in Charge Brett Macy at (405) 522-2283 or via email at [brett.macy@oag.ok.gov](mailto:brett.macy@oag.ok.gov).

Our children should never be subjected to neglect or abuse. Combining our resources and working together will ultimately help better protect children.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hunter". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mike Hunter  
Oklahoma Attorney General