

Appendix 3: Child Abuse Policy Glossary/Definitions

Appointed School Official: The person designated by the authority/school to take responsibility for child abuse and/or neglect cases on behalf of the school.

Aboriginal: Includes First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples

Authorized Person: A certificate holder, or a person who holds a letter of permission issued under section 35 of the Teachers Act.

Child: Anyone under the age of 19 in British Columbia;
Ref: [Child, Family and Community Service Act \(CFCSA\)](#)

Child Welfare Worker: A person delegated under the CFCSA to provide child welfare services, including responses to suspected child abuse and/or neglect

Delegated Aboriginal Child and Family Services Agency: An organization that provides culturally-appropriate services to Aboriginal children and families, and whose child welfare workers have delegated authority under the Child, Family and Community Service Act to provide child welfare services, including responses to suspected child abuse and/or neglect

Independent School Authority: Generally, means a society with a board of directors registered under the Society Act, operating an independent school

Parent or Guardian: The mother of a child; the father of a child; a person to whom custody of the child has been granted by a court order or agreement; or a person with whom the child resides and who stands in place of the child's mother or father.

Partner Agency: Refers to an agency that has been established by government for purposes of contact, communication and information sharing on child abuse, and for the purpose of this policy, include the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Delegated Aboriginal Child and Family Services Agencies and the police.

Service Provider: Any of a wide range of employees, contractors, and volunteers who provide services for children and families in an independent school. Extensive child support is also provided through agencies in the community (See [BC Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect](#) – for an extended list of service providers)