

Pat Quinn
Governor



Richard H. Calica
Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 22nd, 2013

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STATEMENT REGARDING WEST AURORA SCHOOL DISTRICT 129

CHICAGO - We applaud State's Attorney McMahon for recognizing the critical need for all nine million adult Illinoisans to report suspected abuse or neglect to DCFS, particularly mandated reporters.

Strong staff training requirements, strong internal reporting policies and thorough background checks of those with access to children ought to be the policy of all school districts and all other mandated reporters as well.

Violations of the Mandated Reporter Act are prevalent, particularly in suburban Chicago. Illinois should not wait for another tragic failure but take action to prevent the next tragedy. DCFS is ready to work with legislators if needed.

DCFS receives, investigates and acts upon a report of child abuse or neglect every five minutes, child sex abuse every two hours, and the death of a child by abuse or neglect every day-and-a-half. Our work depends on Illinoisans, including mandated reporters, contacting our hotline immediately at 800-252-2873 whenever they suspect that a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm. Our website, www.DCFS.illinois.gov, contains detailed training materials for mandated reporters and tips for parents to help them recognize the warning signs of abuse and neglect.

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