



## CITY OF MILTON PARKS AND RECREATION POLICY ON VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

February 25, 2013

During the 2012 State of Georgia Legislative Session, House Bill 1176 was enacted into law, effective July 1, 2012. In the days leading up to the bill enactment, Attorney General Sam Olens notified Georgians of a clause in HB1176, the Criminal Justice Reform Bill. The bill contains specific language with regard to adults who work with children who are now required by law to report suspected child abuse.

Specifically, HB 1176 changes the definition of "child service organization personnel" to include volunteers. The new law defines "child service organization personnel" as follows:

"Child service organization personnel" means persons employed by or volunteers for a business or an organization, whether public, private, for profit, not for profit, or voluntary, that provides care, treatment, education, training, supervision, coaching, counseling, recreational programs, or shelter to children.

"From an ethical and moral standpoint, volunteers who work with children already have an obligation to report suspected child abuse," said Olens. "HB 1176 simply makes this obligation a requirement by law."

It is the policy of the City of Milton Parks and Recreation Department that every single adult, 18 years of age and above, who works with children in any program receive appropriate training in how to identify and report suspected cases of child abuse, and provide a copy of the certification.

The Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF) is sponsoring a training program offered through Pro Solutions Training, website [www.prosolutionstraining.com](http://www.prosolutionstraining.com) titled "Mandated Reporters: Critical Links in Protecting Children in Georgia." This is a comprehensive training program and as of the date of this publication, is free. The training program provides a "Professional Development Certificate" upon passing the online test at the end of the training. The actual link to the course is:

[https://www.prosolutionstraining.com/store/csi\\_store.cfm/ses\\_/details.cfm,list,x,x,x,0112/](https://www.prosolutionstraining.com/store/csi_store.cfm/ses_/details.cfm,list,x,x,x,0112/)

Fulton County Board of Education has developed their own training and certification program for their employees and any volunteers who operate in their schools. Our preference is that a volunteer take the Pro Solutions Training class, however, we will accept a certificate from the FCBoE program to meet the requirements of training in the identification and reporting of suspected child abuse.



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