Mandatory Reporting and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Purpose:
The purpose of this policy is to further protect minors who are present on the SUNY-ESF campus or participating in SUNY-ESF-sponsored activities by ensuring that, what should be a moral obligation, also becomes a legal obligation.

Policy:
Any employee, or student of, or volunteer for, the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, (SUNY-ESF) who witnesses or has reasonable cause to suspect any sexual abuse of a child occurring on SUNY-ESF property, or while off campus during official SUNY-ESF business or University-sponsored events, shall have an affirmative obligation to report such conduct to the SUNY-ESF University Police Department, (315-470-6666) immediately.

Such report should include the names of the victim and assailant (if known), other identifying information about the victim and assailant, the location of the activity, and the nature of the activity.

Upon receiving such a report, the SUNY-ESF University Police Department shall promptly notify the Commissioner of University Police at SUNY System Administration who shall report such incidents to the Chancellor for periodic reporting to the Board of Trustees.

In addition, to aid in the prevention of crimes against children on property of SUNY-ESF and/or during official SUNY-ESF business at events sponsored by SUNY-ESF, relevant employees should be trained on the identification of such crimes and proper notification requirements.

Vendors, licensees or others who are given permission to come onto campus or to use SUNY ESF facilities for events or activities that will include participation of children shall ensure that they have in place procedures for training, implementation of applicable pre-employment screening requirements and reporting of child sexual abuse.

For purposes of this policy, the applicable definitions of child sexual abuse are those used in the NYS Penal Law in Articles 130 and 263 and Section 260.10 and “child” is defined as “an individual under the age of 17.”