INFORMATION REGARDING IMPORTANT CHANGES TO CHILD ABUSE REPORTING LAWS AND UNIVERSITY POLICY

Dear Students,

As members of the Villanova community, we want to make you aware of some important changes to Pennsylvania’s child abuse reporting laws that become effective on December 31, 2014, and updates that have been made to Villanova’s Child Abuse Reporting Policy in light of these changes.

Any Villanova student who accepts responsibility for a child as an integral part of a program, activity or service sponsored by the University or comes into direct contact with a child as part of their employment with Villanova, and has reason to believe that the child has been subjected to child abuse, must report the information to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (“DHS”) toll-free ChildLine at (800) 932-0313.

A child is any individual under age 18. Proof that abuse or neglect occurred is not required, and any uncertainty to report suspected abuse or neglect should err in favor of making a report. Within 48 hours of the oral report, you must follow up with a written report to DHS or the county agency assigned to the case and provide a copy of the submitted DHS report to the University’s Public Safety Director (9-6982; david.tedjeske@villanova.edu) or, in his absence, the Vice President for Administration and Finance (9-4532; ken.valosky@villanova.edu). For additional information regarding what is meant by “child abuse” and the obligation to report child abuse, see the University’s Child Abuse Reporting Policy available on the University website at http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/president/uco/minors/childabuse.html.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions regarding the Child Abuse Reporting Policy. The University also has a Minors on Campus Committee comprised of representatives from a number of areas involved in youth programs. The Committee members can assist you with any questions you may have. Committee members and their contact information are available at http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/president/uco/minors/Resources/VUInternalResources.html.

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