Possible Family Member Actions Regarding Bullying and Other Harm

1. If you are concerned that a school staff person's behavior or negligence of staff is endangering a child, call the Student Maltreatment Program, Division of Compliance and Assistance, 651-582-8200. This division oversees implementation of the Maltreatment of Minor's Act.

2. To help your child you can:
    a. Contact the teacher, principal or counselor, or district administrators with your concerns. You may end up at the school board level.
    b. Take your child to a pediatrician or family doctor, if the following apply: the child reports injury ; the child is exhibiting signs of school aversion (hates going to school, scared to go to school, crying excessively about school or events at schools, extreme drop in grades or has decided to not go to the bathroom during the school day). A doctor may recommend mental health services, or may be able to recommend how to broach the problem with the school.
    c. Support the child academically, ensuring that the child takes time to do his/her homework, giving help if you can and checking to see that the homework is complete.
    d. Support the child in non-violent problem solving.
    e. Repeat family expectations for honesty, responsibility and kindness.
    f. When a child has harmed another person, work with the school to help the child change his /her behavior and make amends.

3. Family members can also contact others for help:
    a. Local law enforcement
    b. Legal Resources for Attorneys
    c. The Minnesota School Boards Association, 1900 West Jefferson Avenue St. Peter, MN 56082; 507-931-2450
    d. The Minnesota Board of School Administrators, Stan Mack, Executive Director, 1500 W Highway 36, Roseville, MN 55113; 651-582-8796; http://www.msbsa.org/. (The Minnesota Legislature has established a code of ethics for school administrators.)
    e. The Minnesota Board of Teaching, for concerns about the ethical behavior of an individual teacher. Minnesota Board of Teaching, 1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, MN 55113-4266; phone number: 651-582-8833; TTY: 651-582-820, Fax number: 651/582-8872; E-mail: board.teaching@state.mn.us
    f. Minnesota Department of Education's Choice and Innovation Unit, for information on school choice. Visit the MDE Website http://education.state.mn.us

4. For discrimination issues, parents can file a complaint with the Minnesota Office of Human Rights (651-296-5663) or with the Office of Civil Rights. The OCR regional office is in Chicago. (United States Department of Education, 111 North Canal Street, Suite 1053, Chicago, Illinois, 60606-7204; 312-886-8434.

5. In bullying cases or cases of suspensions for rule violations: consider a restorative process to address the harm, working with all parties affected to determine a plan for behavior change, making amends, and getting help if needed. For recommendations for restorative process facilitators, contact the Minnesota Restorative Services Coalition, at www.mnmrsc.org.