



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Incident Location:** 1801 James Cherry Drive, Urbana  
**Date/Time of Press Release:** September 13, 2019 3:30 p.m.  
**Date/Time of Incident:** September 3, 2019



## **INVESTIGATION INTO THOMAS PAINE SCHOOL INCIDENT CONCLUDED**

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A joint investigation into alleged conduct of a Thomas Paine Elementary School staff member was initiated after a hotline report to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The allegation concerned a staff member purportedly having inappropriate physical contact with a student during recess on the school playground during school hours. In response to the hotline call, DCFS investigators, detectives from the Urbana Police Department, and an attorney from the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office conducted an investigation. That investigation included interviews with the student and school staff member in question, as well as potential witnesses to the alleged conduct.

As a result of the details learned during the investigation, and in consultation with the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office, it has been determined that there is no evidence to support the allegations and no crime occurred during the incident in question. Additionally, the investigation concluded that the information initially provided to school administrators would not have required reporting to DCFS pursuant to mandated reporter requirements. The investigation will soon be finalized. During this investigation, all Urbana School District #116 employees have been cooperative and have assisted in conducting a thorough and appropriately expeditious investigation. DCFS, the Urbana Police Department, and the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office are committed to protecting the most vulnerable members of the community, our children.

Members of the public are always encouraged to contact their local police department or call the DCFS child abuse hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE if they suspect the occurrence of any type of abuse involving children.

**###END###**

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