

# Oregon Child Abuse Reporting Law

## REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE

419B.005 Definitions. As used in ORS 418.747, 418.748, 418.749 and 419B.005 to 419B.050, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1)(a) “Abuse” means:

(A) Any assault, as defined in ORS chapter 163, of a child and any physical injury to a child which has been caused by other than accidental means, including any injury which appears to be at variance with the explanation given of the injury.

(B) Any mental injury to a child, which shall include only observable and substantial impairment of the child’s mental or psychological ability to function caused by cruelty to the child, with due regard to the culture of the child.

(C) Rape of a child, which includes but is not limited to rape, sodomy, unlawful sexual penetration and incest, as those acts are defined in ORS chapter 163.

(D) Sexual abuse, as defined in ORS chapter 163.

(E) Sexual exploitation, including but not limited to:

- (i) Contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor, as defined in ORS chapter 163, and any other conduct which allows, employs, authorizes, permits, induces or encourages a child to engage in the performing for people to observe or the photographing, filming, tape recording or other exhibition which, in whole or in part, depicts sexual conduct or contact, as defined in ORS 167.002 or described in ORS 163.665 and 163.670, sexual abuse involving a child or rape of a child, but not including any conduct which is part of any investigation conducted pursuant to ORS 419B.020 or which is designed to serve educational or other legitimate purposes; and
- (ii) Allowing, permitting, encouraging or hiring a child to engage in prostitution, as defined in ORS chapter 167.

(F) Negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including but not limited to the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care that is likely to endanger the health or welfare of the child.

(G) Threatened harm to a child, which means subjecting a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child’s health or welfare.

(H) Buying or selling a person under 18 years of age as described in ORS 163.537.

(I) Permitting a person under 18 years of age to enter or remain in a place where methamphetamines are being manufactured.

(b) “Abuse” does not include reasonable discipline unless the discipline results in one of the conditions described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(2) “Child” means an unmarried person who is under 18 years of age.

(3) “Public or private official” means:

(a) Physician, including any intern or resident.

(b) Dentist.

(c) School employee.

(d) Licensed practical nurse or registered nurse.

(e) Employee of the Department of Human Services, State Commission on Children and Families, Child Care Division of the Employment Department, the Oregon Youth Authority, a county health department, a community mental health and developmental disabilities program, a county juvenile department, a licensed child-caring agency or an alcohol and drug treatment program.

(f) Peace officer.

(g) Psychologist.

(h) Member of the clergy.

(i) Licensed clinical social worker.

(j) Optometrist.

(k) Chiropractor.

(l) Certified provider of foster care, or an employee thereof.

(m) Attorney.

(n) Naturopathic physician.

(o) Licensed professional counselor.

(p) Licensed marriage and family therapist.

(q) Firefighter or emergency medical technician.

(r) A court appointed special advocate, as defined in ORS 419A.004.

(s) A child care provider registered or certified under ORS 657A.030 and 657A.250 to 657A.450.

(t) Member of the Legislative Assembly.

(4) "Law enforcement agency" means:

(a) Any city or municipal police department.

(b) Any county sheriff's office.

(c) The Oregon State Police.

(d) A county juvenile department. [1993 c.546 §12; 1993 c.622 §1a; 1995 c.278 §50; 1995 c.766 §1; 1997 c.127 §1; 1997 c.561 §3; 1997 c.703 §3; 1997 c.873 §30; 1999 c.743 §22; 1999 c.954 §4; 2001 c.104 §148; 2003 c.191 §1]

419B.007 Policy. The Legislative Assembly finds that for the purpose of

facilitating the use of protective social services to prevent further abuse, safeguard and enhance the welfare of abused children, and preserve family life when consistent with the protection of the child by stabilizing the family and improving parental capacity, it is necessary and in the public interest to require mandatory reports and investigations of abuse of children and to encourage voluntary reports. [1993 c.546 §13]

419B.010 Duty of officials to report child abuse; exceptions; penalty. (1) Any public or private official having reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the official comes in contact has suffered abuse or that any person with whom the official comes in contact has abused a child shall immediately report or cause a report to be made in the manner required in ORS 419B.015. Nothing contained in ORS 40.225 to 40.295 shall affect the duty to report imposed by this section, except that a psychiatrist, psychologist, member of the clergy or attorney shall not be required to report such information communicated by a person if the communication is privileged under ORS 40.225 to 40.295. An attorney is not required to make a report under this section by reason of information communicated to the attorney in the course of representing a client, if disclosure of the information would be detrimental to the client.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a report need not be made under this section if the public or private official acquires information relating to abuse by reason of a report made under

this section, or by reason of a proceeding arising out of a report made under this section, and the public

or private official reasonably believes that the information is already known by a law enforcement agency or the Department of Human Services.

(3) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a Class A violation. Prosecution under this subsection shall be commenced at any time within 18 months after commission of the offense. [1993 c.546 §14; 1999 c.1051 §180; 2001 c.104 §149; 2001 c.904 §15] 419B.015 Report form and content;

notice to law enforcement agencies and local office of Department of Human Services. A person making a report of child abuse, whether voluntarily or pursuant to ORS 419B.010, shall make an oral report by telephone or otherwise to the local office of the Department of Human Services, to the designee of the department or to a law enforcement agency within the county where the person making the report is located at the time of the contact. Such reports shall contain, if known, the names and addresses of the child and the parents of the child or other persons responsible for care of the child, the child's age, the nature and extent of the abuse, including any evidence of previous abuse, the explanation given for the abuse and any other information which the person making the report believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse and the identity of the perpetrator. When a report is received by the department, the department shall immediately notify a law enforcement agency within the county where the report was made. When a report is received by a designee of the department, the designee shall notify, according to the contract, either the department or a law enforcement agency within the county where the report was made. When a report is received by a law enforcement agency, the agency shall immediately notify the local office of the department within the county where the report was made. [1993 c.546 §15; 1993 c.734 §1a]

419B.020 Duty of department or law enforcement agency receiving report; investigation; notice to parents; physical examination; child's consent.

(1) Upon receipt of an oral report of child abuse, the Department of Human Services or the law enforcement agency shall immediately:

(a) Cause an investigation to be made to determine the nature and cause of the abuse of the child; and  
(b) Notify the Child Care Division if the alleged child abuse occurred in a child care facility as defined in ORS 657A.250.

(2) If the law enforcement agency conducting the investigation finds reasonable cause to believe that abuse has occurred, the law enforcement agency shall notify by oral report followed by written report the local office of the department. The department shall provide protective social services of its own or of other available social agencies if necessary to prevent further abuses to the child or to safeguard the child's welfare.

(3) If a child is taken into protective custody by the department, the department shall promptly make reasonable efforts to ascertain the name and address of the child's parents or guardian.

(4)(a) If a child is taken into protective custody by the department or a law enforcement official, the department or law enforcement official shall, if possible, make reasonable efforts to advise the parents or guardian immediately, regardless of the time of day, that the child has been taken into custody, the reasons the child has been taken into custody and general information about the child's placement, and the telephone number of the local office of the department and any after-hours telephone numbers.

(b) Notice may be given by any means reasonably certain of notifying the parents or guardian, including but not limited to written, telephonic or in-person oral notification. If the initial notification is not in writing, the information required by paragraph (a) of this subsection also shall be provided to the parents or guardian in writing as soon as possible.

(c) The department also shall make a reasonable effort to notify the noncustodial parent of the information required by paragraph (a) of this subsection in a timely manner.

(d) If a child is taken into custody while under the care and supervision of a person or organization other than the parent, the department, if possible, shall immediately notify the person or organization that the child has been taken into protective custody.

(5) If a law enforcement officer or the department, when taking a child into protective custody, has reasonable cause to believe that the child has been affected by sexual abuse and rape of a child as defined in ORS 419B.005 (1)(a)(C) and that physical evidence of the abuse exists and is likely to disappear, the court may authorize a physical examination for the purposes of preserving evidence if the court finds that it is in the best interest of the child to have such an examination. Nothing in this section affects the authority of the department to consent to physical examinations of the child at other times.

(6) A minor child of 12 years of age or older may refuse to consent to the examination described in subsection (5) of this section. The examination shall be conducted by or under the supervision of a physician licensed under ORS chapter 677 or a nurse practitioner licensed under ORS chapter 678 and, whenever practicable, trained in conducting such examinations. [1993 c.546 §16; 1993 c.622 §7a; 1997 c.130 §13; 1997 c.703 §1; 1997 c.873 §33] 419B.025 Immunity of person making report in good faith. Anyone participating in good faith in the making of a report of child abuse and who has reasonable grounds for the making thereof shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed with respect to the making or content of such report. Any such participant shall have the same immunity with respect to participating in any judicial proceeding resulting from such report. [1993 c.546 §17]

419B.028 Photographing child during investigation; photographs as records.

(1) In carrying out its duties under ORS 419B.020, any law enforcement agency or the Department of Human Services may photograph or cause to have

photographed any child subject of the investigation for purposes of preserving evidence of the child's condition at the time of the investigation.

(2) For purposes of ORS 419B.035, photographs taken under authority of subsection (1) of this section shall be considered records. [1993 c.546 §18] 419B.030 Central registry of reports.

(1) A central state registry shall be established and maintained by the Department of Human

Services. The local offices of the department shall report to the state registry in writing when an investigation has shown reasonable cause to believe that a child's condition was the result of abuse even if the cause remains unknown. Each registry shall contain current information from reports catalogued both as to the name of the child and the name of the family.

(2) When the department provides specific case information from the central state registry, the department shall include a notice that the information does not necessarily reflect any subsequent proceedings that are not within the jurisdiction of the department. [1993 c.546 §19] 419B.035 Confidentiality of records; when available to others. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of ORS

192.001 to 192.170, 192.210 to 192.505 and 192.610 to 192.990 relating to confidentiality and accessibility for public inspection of public records and public documents, reports and records compiled under the provisions of ORS 419B.010 to 419B.050 are confidential and are not accessible for public inspection. However, the Department of Human Services shall make records available to: (a) Any law enforcement agency or a child abuse registry in any other state for the purpose of subsequent investigation of child abuse;

(b) Any physician, at the request of the physician, regarding any child brought to the physician or coming before the physician for examination, care or treatment;(c) Attorneys of record for the child or child's parent or guardian in any juvenile court proceeding;

(d) Citizen review boards established by the Judicial Department for the purpose of periodically reviewing the status of children, youths and youth offenders under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under ORS 419B.100 and 419C.005. Citizen review boards may make such records available to participants in case reviews;

(e) A court appointed special advocate in any juvenile court proceeding in which it is alleged that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect;

(f) The Child Care Division for certifying, registering or otherwise regulating child care facilities; and

(g) The Office of Children's Advocate.

(2) The Department of Human Services may make reports and records available to any person, administrative hearing officer, court, agency, organization or other entity when the department determines that such disclosure is necessary to administer its child welfare services and is in the best interests of the affected child, or that such disclosure is necessary to investigate, prevent or treat child abuse and neglect, to protect children from abuse and neglect or for research when the Director of Human Services gives prior written approval. The Department of Human Services shall adopt rules setting forth the procedures by which it will make the disclosures authorized under this subsection and subsection (1) of this section. The name, address and other identifying information about the person who made the report may not be disclosed pursuant to this subsection and subsection (1) of this section.

(3) A law enforcement agency may make reports and records available to other law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, city attorneys with criminal prosecutorial functions and the Attorney General when the law enforcement agency determines that disclosure is necessary for the investigation or enforcement of laws relating to child abuse and neglect.

(4) A law enforcement agency, upon completing an investigation and closing the file in a specific case relating to child abuse or neglect, shall make reports and records in the case available upon request to any law enforcement agency or

community corrections agency in this state, to the Department of Corrections or to the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision for the purpose of managing and supervising offenders in custody or on probation, parole, post-prison supervision or other form of conditional or supervised release. A law enforcement agency may make reports and records available to law enforcement, community corrections, corrections or parole agencies in an open case when the law enforcement agency determines that the disclosure will not interfere with an ongoing investigation in the case. The name, address and other identifying information about the person who made the report may not be disclosed under this subsection or subsection (5)(b) of this section. (5)(a) Any record made available to a law enforcement agency or community corrections agency in this state, to the Department of Corrections or the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision or to a physician in this state, as authorized by subsections

(1) to (4) of this section, shall be kept confidential by the agency, department, board or physician. Any record or report disclosed by the Department of Human Services to other persons or entities pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall be kept confidential.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, a law enforcement agency, a community corrections agency, the Department of Corrections and the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision may disclose records made available to them under subsection (4) of this section to each other and to law enforcement, community corrections, corrections and parole agencies of other states for the purpose of managing and supervising offenders in custody or on probation, parole, post-prison supervision or other form of conditional or supervised release.

(6) An officer or employee of the Department of Human Services or of a law enforcement agency or any person or entity to whom disclosure is made pursuant to subsections (1) to (4) of this section may not release any information not authorized by subsections (1) to (5) of this section.

(7) As used in this section, “law enforcement agency” has the meaning given that term in ORS 181.010.

(8) A person who violates subsection (5)(a) or (6) of this section commits a Class A violation. [1993 c.546 §§20,20a; 1995 c.278 §51; 1997 c.328 §8; 1999 c.1051 §181; 2003 c.14 §224; 2003 c.412 §1; 2003 c.591 §8] 419B.040 Certain privileges not grounds for excluding evidence in court proceedings on child abuse. (1) In the case of abuse of a child, the privileges created in ORS 40.230 to 40.255, including the psychotherapist-patient privilege, the physician-patient privilege, the privileges extended to nurses, to staff members of schools and to registered clinical social workers and the husband-wife privilege, shall not be a ground for excluding evidence regarding a child’s abuse, or the cause thereof, in any judicial proceeding resulting from a report made pursuant to ORS 419B.010 to 419B.050.

(2) In any judicial proceedings resulting from a report made pursuant to ORS 419B.010 to 419B.050, either spouse shall be a competent and compellable witness against the other. [1993 c.546 §21] 419B.045 Investigation conducted on public school premises; notification; role of school personnel. If an investigation of a report of child abuse is conducted on public school premises, the school administrator shall first be notified that the investigation is to take place, unless the school administrator is a subject of the investigation. The school administrator or a school staff member designated by the administrator may, at the investigator’s discretion, be present to facilitate the investigation. The Department of Human Services or the law enforcement agency making the investigation shall be advised of the child’s disabling conditions, if any, prior to any interview with the affected child. A school administrator or staff member is not authorized to reveal anything that transpires during an investigation in which the administrator or staff member participates nor shall the information become part of the child’s school records. The school administrator or staff member may testify at any subsequent trial resulting from the investigation and may be interviewed by the respective litigants prior to any such trial. [1993 c.546 §22; 2003 c.14 §225]

**Department of Human Services branch offices**  
**& phone numbers**

Toll-free number 800-646-5430  
Baker 541-523-6423  
Benton 541-967-2060  
Child abuse hotline (Multnomah Co.)  
503-731-3100 / 800-509-5439  
Clackamas 503-657-2112  
800-628-7876 / 800-657-6802  
Clatsop 503-325-9179 / 800-643-4606  
Columbia 503-397-3292 / 800-428-1546  
Coos 541-756-5500 x250  
800-500-2730 / 800-533-4180  
Crook 541-447-6207  
Curry 541-247-4515  
Deschutes 541-388-6161 / 866-249-9263  
Douglas 541-440-3373 / 800-305-2903  
Gilliam/Wheeler 541-384-4252  
Grant 541-575-0728 / 877-877-5081  
Harney 541-573-2086 / 877-877-5450  
Hood River 541-386-2962  
Jackson 541-776-6120  
Jefferson 541-475-2292  
Josephine 541-474-3120 / 800-930-4364  
Klamath 541-883-5570  
Lake 541-947-2273 / 888-811-4201  
Lane 541-686-7555 / 866-300-2782

Lincoln 541-265-8557 / 800-305-2850  
Linn 541-967-2060 / 800-358-2208  
Malheur (Mountain time) 541-889-9194  
800-445-4273  
Marion 503-378-6704 / 800-854-3508  
Morrow 541-481-9482  
Polk 503-623-8118 x266  
Tillamook 503-842-5571 / 877-317-9911  
Umatilla 541-276-9220 / 800-547-3897  
Hermiston/Pendleton/Union  
541-963-8571 x286  
Wallowa 541-426-4558  
Wasco/Sherman 541-298-5136  
800-388-7787  
Washington 503-648-8951 / 800-275-8952  
Yamhill 503-472-4634 / 800-822-3903

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