

10.22. Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

10.22.1. Overview

Oregon state law mandates that workers in certain professions must make reports if they have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect. These people are called mandatory reporters. Employees of Curry Public Library as defined under ORS 419B.005, are obligated to report abuse either on or off duty.

10.22.2. Definitions

Oregon law recognizes these types of child abuse:

- Mental injuries
- Sexual abuse or exploitation
- Rape or Incest
- Neglect or maltreatment
- Threatened harm
- Permitting a person under 18 years of age to enter or remain in or upon premises where methamphetamines are being manufactured.
- Unlawful exposure to a controlled substance, as defined in ORS 475.005, that subjects a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child's health or safety.

A child is an unmarried person under the age of 18.

10.22.3. Reporting Procedure

Any employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or who comes into contact with someone who has abused a child shall immediately notify the Oregon Department of Human Services or local law enforcement agency. (ORS 419B.010). The employee shall also immediately inform his/her supervisor.

A written record of the abuse report shall be made by the employee suspecting the abuse of a child. (ORS 419B.015) The report must contain, if known, the following information:

- The names and addresses of the child and parents/person responsible for the child's care.
- The child's age.
- The nature and extent of abuse (including any evidence of previous abuse).
- The explanation given for the abuse.
- Any information the official believes may be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse or the perpetrator's identity.

All district volunteers are also subject to this policy even though they are not mandatory reporters under the law. A volunteer who suspects that a child has been abused is to report the situation to the Library's designated representative. The representative will then immediately notify the Oregon Department of Human Services or local law enforcement agency.

10.22.4. How to Make a Report

If a child is in immediate danger of harm, call 911.

Reports should be made orally in the county where the reporter is located at the time of the suspicious contact. In Curry County, you should call 541-756-5500 or 800-500-2730. A report to law enforcement will also meet the reporting obligation. Law enforcement and DHS work together, so you may report to either.

DHS or law enforcement will keep your identity confidential unless ordered by a court to disclose the information. (ORS 419B.015)

Go to: http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/pages/abuse/cps/cw_branches.aspx#curry for reporting information for other Oregon counties.

10.22.5. Immunity of Persons Making a Report in Good Faith. (ORS 419B.025)

Anyone participating in good faith in the making of a report of child abuse and who has reasonable grounds for the making the report 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.

10.22.6. Failure to Comply

Any district employee/volunteer who fails to report a suspected abuse of a child as provided by this policy and the prescribed Oregon law commits a violation punishable by law. A person who violates subsection ORS 419B.005(1) commits a Class A violation. Intentionally making a false report of child abuse is also a Class A violation. If an employee fails to report suspected abuse of a child or fails to maintain confidentiality of records as required by this policy, the employee will be disciplined.

10.22.7. Training

The district shall establish written procedures to provide annual training for all district staff and volunteers in the prevention and identification of child abuse and on the obligations of district employees under ORS 419B.005 to report suspected child abuse.