

Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse

Reporting

Any district employees having reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the employee comes in contact has suffered abuse, or that any person with whom the employee comes in contact has abused a child, shall orally report or cause an oral report to be immediately made by telephone or otherwise to the local office of Oregon Department of Human Services or to a law enforcement agency within the county where the person making the report is at the time of his/her contact.

If known, such report shall contain the names and addresses of the child, the child's parents or other persons responsible for the child's care, the child's age, and the nature and extent of the suspected abuse, an explanation for the suspected abuse, any other information which the person making the report believes might be helpful in establishing the possible cause of the suspected abuse and the identity of a possible perpetrator, should also be reported.

A written report shall be made by the employee who suspects child abuse by using the NSSD child abuse reporting form included in this policy, which includes:

1. The name and position of the person making the report;
2. The name and position of any witness to the report;
3. A description of how the report was made (i.e., phone or other method);
4. The name of the agency and individual who took the report;
5. The date and time that the report was made; and
6. The names of persons who received a copy of the written report.

The written record of the child abuse report shall not be placed in the student's educational record. A copy of the written report shall be retained by the employee making the report. A copy shall be provided to the Superintendent.

The Superintendent will receive reports of child abuse by school employees and specify the procedures to be followed upon receipt of a child abuse report. The District will provide employees a staff handbook each fall with contact information regarding the procedures that will be followed upon receipt of a report. When action on a report has been taken, the person initiating the report must be notified.

When the District receives a report of suspected child abuse by one of its own school employees, the Superintendent will determine if there is reasonable cause to support the report. If there is reasonable cause, the Superintendent shall place the school employee on paid administrative leave. At that time, the Oregon Department of Human Services or a law enforcement agency will: 1) determine that the report is unfounded or that the report will not be pursued; or 2) determine that the report is founded and take the appropriate disciplinary action against the school employee. If the Oregon Department of Human Services or a law enforcement agency is unable to determine whether the child abuse occurred, the District may either reinstate the employee or take disciplinary action at the District's discretion.

The written record of each reported incident of child abuse, action taken by the District, and any findings as a result of the report shall be maintained by the District.

Definitions

1. Oregon law recognizes these types of abuse:
 - a. Physical;
 - b. Neglect;
 - c. Mental Injury;
 - d. Threat of Harm;
 - e. Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation.

2. Child means an unmarried person who is under 18 years of age.

Confidentiality of Records

The name, address, and other identifying information about the employee who made the report are confidential and are not accessible for public inspection.

The disciplinary records of a district employee or former district employee convicted of a crime listed in ORS 342.143 are not exempt from disclosure under ORS 192.501 or 192.502. Therefore, if a district employee or former employee is convicted of a crime listed in ORS 342.143, the district that is or was the employer of that employee when the crime was committed shall disclose the disciplinary records of the employee to any person upon request. However, prior to the disclosure of a disciplinary record the district shall remove any personally identifiable information from the record that would disclose the identity of a child, a crime victim or a district employee who is not the subject of the disciplinary record.

Failure to Comply

Any district employee who fails to report a suspected child abuse as provided by this policy and the prescribed Oregon law commits a violation punishable by law. A district employee who fails to comply with the confidentiality of records requirements commits a violation punishable by the prescribed law. If an employee fails to report suspected child abuse or fails to maintain confidentiality of records as required by this policy, the employee will be disciplined.

Cooperation with Investigator

The district staff shall make every effort in suspected child abuse cases to cooperate with investigating officials as follows:

1. If the student is to be interviewed at the school, the principal or representative shall make a conference space available. The principal or representative of the school may at the discretion of the investigator, be present to facilitate the interview. Law enforcement officers wishing to interview or remove a student from the premises shall present themselves at the office and contact the principal or representative. The officer shall sign the student out on a form to be provided by the school;
2. When the subject matter of the interview or investigation is identified to be related to suspected child abuse, district employees shall not notify parents;
3. The principal or representative shall advise the investigator of any conditions of disability prior to any interview with the affected child;
4. District employees are not authorized to reveal anything that transpires during an investigation in which the employee participates, nor shall the information become part of the student's education records, except that the employee may testify at any subsequent trial resulting from the investigation and may be interviewed by the respective litigants prior to any such trial.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES/LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT FORM

Reporter's Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

This Report Concerns the Following Child or Children

Name	Age/DOB	Sex	School
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS(S): Parents, custodians, or adults living in the home; other children in the family.

Name	Relationship	Age	Address	Phone
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Address of Child(ren): _____
Street City State/Zip

Phone: _____

Address of Parent/Guardian: _____
Street City State/Zip

Phone: _____

OTHER SIGNIFICANT PERSON(S) WHO MAY HAVE INFORMATION: School, counselor, teachers, doctor, relative, friends, neighbors, etc.

Name	Address	Phone	Relationship
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARIZE THE NATURE OF THE CONCERNS/REPORT: List most important details first ,and be specific. Brief description of injury/conditions/reasons for concern:

Is there a documented history of reports regarding this student? YES NO UNKNOWN

Person Making Report: _____

Oral Report Made to Principal/Designee:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Oral Report Made to: Agency: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Written Report Sent to: Agency: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Action Taken: _____ No Change _____ Taken into custody of police/CSB

(on date of report) _____ Other: _____

Copies to: Agency receiving oral report.

District report file: _____

Building report file: _____

NOT TO BE PLACED IN THE CHILD'S PERSONAL FILE