

# Oregon law recognizes these types of abuse:

## Physical injury

Including an injury that is inflicted by non-accidental means that results in harm.

### Injuries may:

- Be in the shape of the article used (electric cord, belt buckle, etc.).
- Not match child's description of how they occurred (fracture from falling off sofa, etc.).

## Neglect

Failure through action or omission to provide and maintain food, shelter, medicine, supervision, protection or nurturance to such a degree that a child's health and safety are endangered.

### Examples:

- Unlawful exposure of a child to a substance that subjects the child to severe harm.
- Serious inattention to a child's need for affection, support, nurturing or emotional development.
- Child left alone with no supervision.
- Unmet physical, emotional or medical needs.

## Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation



Any sexual contact in which a child or teen younger than 18 years is used to sexually stimulate another person is illegal. This may be anything from rape to fondling to involving a child in pornography.

### Children may have:

- Poor peer relationships, fantasies, infantile behavior, or fear of being left with someone.
- Inappropriate interest in, knowledge of or acting out of sexual matters.
- Any of the behavioral problems listed under "Mental injury."

## Threat of harm



Threat of harm is subjecting a child to severe harm of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, mental injury or other child abuse or neglect.

Threat of harm includes witnessing or intervening in domestic violence. Children may exhibit any of the behaviors listed on this page.

## Mental injury

A continuing pattern of rejecting, terrorizing, ignoring, isolating or corrupting a child, resulting in serious damage to the child.

### Children may:

- Have speech or sleep disorders.
- Fail to grow normally.
- Be very aggressive or withdrawn.
- Show an abnormal need for emotional support.

## Child selling



Buying, selling or trading for legal or physical custody of a child.

Does not apply to legitimate adoption or domestic relations planning.

If you think a child is being abused, you must report it to a Department of Human Services office or a law enforcement agency. Nearly three-quarters of children are referred to DHS by mandatory reporters. You may be their best hope.



Each year in Oregon, more than 63,000 reports of child abuse and neglect are made. On average 15 children die from abuse and neglect each year. You can help these kids.

### What does reporting mean?

- You must report any "reasonable suspicion" of child abuse according to Oregon law.
- DHS child protective services will assess the information you give us and take further action, if necessary.
- Your name will be kept confidential. Only a court of law can order a reporter's name released.
- More comprehensive information on the symptoms of abuse and the law is available from DHS.

### Child abuse reporting

If you think someone is being hurt or is in danger, call 911 immediately. Report child abuse by calling 1-855-503-SAFE (7233) or by calling local law enforcement.

This toll-free number allows you to report abuse of any child or adult to the Oregon Department of Human Services.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact Child Protective Services at 503-945-5683. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

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As a mandatory reporter...



*You must report child abuse and neglect*

