

MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to
prove that
abuse
occurred?

No.

You are asking law enforcement or DHS to make an assessment of the situation.

You are reporting only what you observed or when have **reasonable cause** to believe a child has suffered abuse.

Frequently Asked Questions

What about various forms of discipline, such as spanking?

The law exempts from the definition of abuse: any **reasonable discipline** unless the discipline results in one of the conditions described in the definition of **abuse**.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does this law
have a
research
exemption?

No.

You must report even if you learn of suspected child abuse through research meant to help children (i.e., in study related to sex trafficking, parenting, drug-related research, etc.)

Please contact the OSU IRB Administrator for more info

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I learn about abuse through someone else's report?

- Information acquired “by reason of a report” may not need to be reported again to state authorities*
- You must reasonably believe the information is already known to law enforcement or DHS
- “When in doubt, report it out!”

*University employees are always expected to notify OSU when an allegation involves affiliated people or programs

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my
report be
confidential?

It depends...

- A reporter's identity will remain confidential to the full extent allowable by law.
- If court action is initiated, the reporting person may be called as a witness or the court may order that the reporter's name be disclosed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I be sued based on my report?

Oregon law ([ORS 419.25](#)) provides that anyone making a report of child abuse in **good faith** and who has **reasonable cause** for making the report, will have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might occur with respect to the making or content of such report.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if I don't report?

- A mandatory reporter who fails to report is subject to prosecution of a Class A criminal violation of the law, which carries a **maximum penalty of \$2,000**.
- Some mandatory reporters have also been **sued for damages in civil court** for failure to report.
- Failure to report also violates OSU policy, and can be **grounds for discipline, up to and including termination**

Questions?

Start here: youth.oregonstate.edu/abuse

Contact

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