

QUICK REFERENCE PACE

Property and Casualty
Coverage for Education

Reporting Mandatory Abuse: COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Community college employees in Oregon are required to report child abuse.

Oregon law requires certain professions to report child abuse. These professions include physicians, dentists, nurses, members of the clergy, attorneys, and peace officers. The complete list of professions appears in Oregon Revised Statute 419B.005.

Employees of "higher education institutions" were added to the list of mandatory reporters with House Bill 4016 passed in the 2012 Legislative Session. The changes to law became effective in January of 2013.

What is child abuse?

"Child" means an unmarried person under the age of 18. "Abuse" includes physical injury caused by other than accidental means, mental injury, sexual abuse and exploitation, negligent treatment, and threatening harm of a child, but abuse does not include reasonable discipline unless the discipline results in one of these conditions.

Who do I contact?

Make a report either to the local Department of Human Services (DHS) or local law enforcement office. Reports can be made over the telephone or in person. Telephone numbers for the local DHS offices appear on DHS's internet homepage. If you do not have access to the

internet, or if you must make your report after 5:00 p.m., then the DHS webpage suggests dialing 911. It is important to remember that filing a report with the college does not satisfy the legal obligation to contact DHS or law enforcement because the mandatory reporting law is in addition to any policy adopted by your employer.

What information should I provide?

A report should include the following information: names and address of the child and parent, child's age, the type and extent of the abuse, any evidence of previous abuse, an explanation for the abuse, and any other information that might establish the cause of abuse or identity of the abuser.

When should I report?

You must make the report immediately upon having a reasonable and good faith belief that child abuse occurred.

Is my report confidential?

A reporter's identity will not be disclosed to the extent allowed by law.

Can I be sued for making a report?

Any person who makes a report is immune from liability when the report was reasonably believed and made in good faith.

What if I choose not to report?

Failure to report child abuse is a violation of the law and carries a penalty of up to \$1,000.

Know your....

- College policy
- Local DHS office phone number and location

Sources

- ORS 419B.005 - 419B.050
- <http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/pages/abuse/cps/report.aspx>

PACE Risk Management
1-800-285-5461
losscontrol@sdao.com

PACE Pre-Loss
1-800-578-6722
pacepreloss@osba.org

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