

Mandatory Reporting

As a school employee, teacher or counselor, you are a mandatory reporter under Oregon law (ORS 419B.005). This means that if you encounter a child you reasonably suspect was or is being abused or if you have contact with a person who you believe abused a child, you are required to report it immediately to the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS). The person with the information should contact DHS, but except in cases of emergency, the Head of School should be notified first.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), you can call the abuse hotline at (855) 503-SAFE (7233). This hotline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

What to expect when you call

You will speak with a Child Welfare screener.

You will be asked about the following:

Name, date of birth or age, and location for all adults and children involved.

A description of the suspected abuse, including whether the child has current injuries.

Detailed observations and statements made by the child or others.

If applicable, a description of the child's unique needs.

Information related to family functioning, resources and support.

Contact information, addresses, or other means to locate the individuals of concern.

Race, ethnicity and language spoken by the child and family.

Whether the child or family identify American Indian or Alaska Native heritage.

What you share will be kept confidential, but you will be required to identify yourself.

If you feel an individual is in immediate danger, call 911 immediately.

You can also report suspected child abuse to your local law enforcement agency.

DHS provides training on Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse in Oregon which you may find helpful. To register, go to <https://oregon-state-pace-odhs.catalog.instructure.com/courses/mandatory-reporting-of-child-abuse-fn>