

Parent Training for Prevention and Identification of Child Abuse

Senate Bill 379

Summary: This bill requires annual training of school personnel on child abuse reporting, identification, and prevention. In addition annual training must be made available to parents and students on the identification and prevention of child abuse.

Peggy Lintula 942-4967

Tim Rochholz 942-3381 x133

Scope of the Problem

- Each year in Oregon, more than 30,000 reports of child abuse and neglect are made.
 - Nearly 15 children die from abuse.
 - Many cases of abuse are never reported.

Oregon law recognizes these types of abuse:

1. Physical
2. Neglect
3. Mental injury
4. Threat of harm
5. Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
6. Child Selling

Oregon law recognizes these types of abuse:

Physical injury

- Bruises, welts, burns, cuts, broken bones, sprains, bites, etc., which are deliberately inflicted.
- Injuries may:
 - Be in the shape of the article used (electrical cord, belt buckle, etc.)
 - Not match children's description of how they occurred (fracture from falling off sofa, etc.)

Neglect

- Failure to provide food, shelter, medicine, etc., to such a degree that a child's health and safety are endangered.
- Children often:
 - Don't want to leave school.
 - Are constantly tired.
 - Are left alone with no supervision>
 - Have unmet physical, emotional or medical needs.

types of abuse cont'

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 often have:

- Poor peer relationships, fantasy or infantile behavior, 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 a substantial risk of harm to the child’s health or welfare.

▪ The presence of domestic violence is a risk for children.

▪ Children may exhibit any of the behaviors listed on this page.

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Mental injury

- A continuing pattern of rejecting, terrorizing, ignoring, isolating or corrupting a child, resulting in serious damage to the child.
- Children often:
 - Have speech or sleep disorders.
 - Fail to grow normally.
 - Are very aggressive or withdrawn.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.

Types of Disclosure

- Direct
- Indirect
- Disguised
- Strings attached

Responding to disclosure

- Believe the child
- Reassure the child
- Confront guilt
- Don't condemn the abuser
- Don't express shock/dismay
- Don't ask leading questions

What to say

- “I believe you.”
- “I’m glad you told me.”
- “It’s not your fault this happened.”
- “This has happened to other kids.”
- “Sometimes adults get mixed up and need help.”
- “We will need to get help from others.”
- “I will support you.”
- “Let me explain what I think will happen next.”
(Do not tell the child you will stay with them)

Reporting

A request for an investigation into suspected child abuse or neglect

“Reasonable cause to believe”

Remember You do Not have to prove that abuse is occurring.

**Mandated Reporters must report
there is No choice
it is the law**

Failure to report by school employees is
\$1,000 fine and license may be taken by TSPC.

Immunity from liability

Any district employee, who in “good faith,”
makes a report, will have immunity from any
liability.

Reports are made to

Oregon Department of Human Services

686-7555 x1

Or

Local Law Enforcement

942-9145 x1

“While we cannot be certain that things will get better if we report, we can be certain that things will get worse if we do not report”

Resources:

South Lane School District, policies and procedures, Committee for Children, Oregon Department of Human Services, U.S Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect