

MANDATORY CHILD ABUSE REPORTING: YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATION

If you suspect that a child has been abused, or that an adult you come in contact with has abused a child, you must report immediately to law enforcement or the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Who must report?	ALL Salem-Keizer Public School employees are mandatory reporters.
What is abuse?	There are five main categories of abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental injury, threat of harm and neglect. It is important to recognize that abuse may not always involve an adult and a child. Abuse involving two children must also be reported.
How do I make a report?	Call the DHS Child Abuse Hotline at 503-378-6704 or contact a law enforcement agency. Making an official report to your School Resource Officer would also fulfill the requirement. If a child is at risk of imminent harm, contact 9-1-1. Telling only your supervisor or colleague does not fulfill your legal reporting obligation.
What if I suspect abuse but don't know for sure?	You must make a report if you have "reasonable cause" (a suspicion) to believe that a child has been abused. You do not have to know for sure that abuse occurred. It is not your role to investigate so avoid interviewing students or staff. Instead, leave it to the authorities.
When should I report?	You must report abuse immediately .
Who else should I notify?	It is important to keep the information as confidential as possible. However, you should notify your supervisor and provide a copy of the district's "Suspected Abuse Reporting Form" to the school counselor. Do not notify the person of concern or the child's parents; leave it to the authorities.
Am I only obligated to report concerns I have at work?	No. As a mandatory reporter, you are obligated to report suspected abuse at ALL times in all situations. It is not limited to information gained through your official capacity with the district.
What happens if I don't report?	Failure to report is a violation of the law and a violation of district policy. Mandatory reporters might also be sued for damages in civil court. For employees licensed through TSPC, failure to report could also be an ethical violation.
Can I be sued for making a report?	Anyone who makes a good faith report based on reasonable grounds is immune from liability.
Will my report be kept confidential?	Reporter information is kept confidential to the full extent allowed by law. This typically means that your name would only be released by a court order or if necessary during the course of an investigation.

Additional Resources:

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 419B.005 to 419B.045 and 339.370 to 339.400
 Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 584-020-005 to 584-020-0040
 Administrative Policy PAP-A001, Child Abuse and Sexual Conduct
 District Policy KLG, Investigation by Law Enforcement Agencies
 Oregon Department of Human Services: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/main.shtml>
 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission: <http://www.tspc.state.or.us/pub.asp?id=6>

For additional information on your role as a mandatory reporter, contact:

Debbie Joa, Prevention & Protection Coordinator or Kathryn Nove, Director of Employee Relations
 Salem-Keizer Public Schools, Human Resources Department, 503-399-3061

