Oregon
Child Abuse and Neglect

Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect
To better understand this issue and to view it across States, download the PDF (587 KB) of this publication.

Physical Abuse
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.005
'Abuse' means:

- An assault on a child and physical injury to a child that has been caused by other than accidental means, including injury that appears to be at variance with the explanation given of the injury
- Threatened harm to a child that means subjecting a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare
- Permitting a person under age 18 to enter or remain in or upon premises where methamphetamine is being manufactured
- Unlawful exposure to a controlled substance that subjects a child to a substantial risk of harm to his or her health or safety

Neglect
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.005
The term 'abuse' includes negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including but not limited to, the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care that is likely to endanger the health or welfare of the child.

Sexual Abuse/Exploitation
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.005
The term 'abuse' includes:

- Rape of a child, which includes but is not limited to, rape, sodomy, unlawful sexual penetration, and incest
- Sexual abuse as described in chapter 163
- Sexual exploitation, including, but not limited to:
  - Contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor
  - Conduct that allows, employs, authorizes, permits, induces, or encourages a child to engage in the performing for people to observe, or the photographing, filming, tape recording, or other exhibition that, in whole or in part, depicts sexual conduct or contact, sexual abuse involving a child, or rape of a child
  - Allowing, permitting, encouraging, or hiring a child to engage in prostitution

Emotional Abuse
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.005
The term 'abuse' includes any mental injury to a child that shall include only observable and substantial impairment of the child's mental or psychological ability to function caused by cruelty to the child, with due regard to the culture of the child.

Abandonment
This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Standards for Reporting
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.010
A report is required when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse.

Persons Responsible for the Child
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.005
Responsible person may include any person.

Exceptions
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.005
Abuse does not include reasonable exercise of parental discipline.
Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect
To better understand this issue and to view it across States, download the PDF (763 KB) of this publication.

Professionals Required to Report
Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 419B.005; 419B.010
A public or private official is mandated to report. Public or private officials include:

- Physicians, physician assistants, naturopathic physicians, interns, residents, optometrists, chiropractors, dentists, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, nurse's aides, home health aides, or employees of in-home health services
- School employees, including employees of higher education institutions (such as community colleges and public and private universities)
- Employees of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Early Learning Division, Youth Development Council, Office of Child Care, the Oregon Youth Authority, a local health department, a community mental health program, a community developmental disabilities program, a county juvenile department, a licensed child-caring agency, or an alcohol and drug treatment program
- Peace officers
- Members of the clergy
- Psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists
- Certified foster care or child care providers
- Attorneys or court-appointed special advocates
- Firefighters or emergency medical technicians
- Members of the Legislative Assembly
- Physical, speech, or occupational therapists
- Audiologists or speech-language pathologists
- Employees of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission directly involved in investigations or discipline by the commission
- Operators of preschool or school-age recorded programs
- Employees or a private agency or organization facilitating the provision of respite services for parents pursuant to a properly executed power of attorney
- Employees of organizations providing child-related services or activities, including youth groups or centers, scout groups or camps, or summer or day camps
- Coaches, assistant coaches, or trainers of athletes, if compensated and if the athlete is a child
- Personal support and home care workers

Reporting by Other Persons Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.015
Any person may voluntarily make a report.

Institutional Responsibility to Report
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.010
The duty to report under this section is personal to the public or private official alone, regardless of whether the official is employed by, a volunteer of, or a representative or agent for any type of entity or organization that employs persons or uses persons as volunteers who are public or private officials in its operations.

The duty to report under this section exists regardless of whether the entity or organization that employs the public or private official or uses the official as a volunteer has its own procedures or policies for reporting abuse internally within the entity or organization.
Standards for Making a Report  
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.010  
A report is required when any public or private official has reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the official comes in contact has suffered abuse.

The duty to report under this section is personal to the public or private official alone, regardless of whether the official is employed by, a volunteer of, or a representative or agent for any type of entity or organization that employs persons or uses persons as volunteers who are public or private officials in its operations.

The duty to report under this section exists regardless of whether the entity or organization that employs the public or private official or uses the official as a volunteer has its own procedures or policies for reporting abuse internally within the entity or organization.

Privileged Communications  
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.010  
A psychiatrist, psychologist, member of the clergy, or attorney shall not be required to report if such communication is privileged under law. An attorney is not required to make a report of information communicated to the attorney in the course of representing a client if disclosure of the information would be detrimental to the client.

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report  
Not addressed in statutes reviewed.

Disclosure of Reporter Identity  
Citation: Rev. Stat. § 419B.015  
The name, address, and other identifying information about the person who made the report may not be disclosed.