

CPS Screening Procedures

Oregon Child Protective Services (CPS) follows a systematic safety intervention model for identifying and managing safety threats to children. Screening is the first stage of the department's safety intervention model and is the point when the department receives reports of alleged child abuse and neglect.

1. Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect

A. Mandatory reporters

Oregon law mandates some professionals, referred to as public or private officials, to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

Mandatory reporters include:

- Physicians, including interns and residents
- Dentists
- School employees
- Licensed practical nurses and registered nurses
- Employees of the Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Commission on Children and Families, Child Care Division of the Employment Department, the Oregon Youth Authority, county health departments, community mental health and developmental disabilities programs, county juvenile departments, licensed child care agencies and alcohol and drug treatment programs
- Law enforcement officers
- Psychologists
- Members of the clergy
- Licensed clinical social workers
- Optometrists
- Chiropractors
- Certified providers of foster care, or employees thereof
- Attorneys
- Naturopathic physicians
- Licensed professional counselors
- Licensed marriage and family therapists
- Firefighters and emergency medical technicians
- Court-appointed special advocates, as defined in ORS 419A.004.
- Child care providers registered or certified under ORS 657A.030 and 657A.250 to 657A.450
- Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly

B. Non-mandated reporters

Non-mandated reporters may report suspected child abuse and neglect, and may make requests for family support services. Non-mandated reporters include, but are not limited to:

- Parents
- Neighbors
- Concerned citizens
- Children and youths
- Family members
- Anonymous reporters



Tips to support reporters when taking a report

To encourage and support those who make reports, the screener can do the following:

- *De-escalate reporters – help anxious or angry reporters calm down and focus on how their concern and action is helping a child who may need protection or other help.*
- *Engage in supportive listening – hear the reporter out and let him or her know that his or her concerns are being heard.*
- *Explain the purpose of CPS is to protect children and strengthen families.*
- *Emphasize the importance of reporting.*
- *Explain Child Welfare and how it will respond to their concerns – let the reporter know the process of response, i.e., that the information will be reviewed, a plan made, and action taken for this specific situation. The plan likely will include a check of records. It may include conducting a CPS assessment, referring the family to another agency, or no further action.*
- *Answer questions with as much specificity as makes sense for the situation and is legally allowed.*
- *Respond sensitively to the fears and concerns of the reporter.*