Reporting Suspected Child or Elder Abuse

Oregon law mandates that workers in certain positions must report if they have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or elder abuse. The Umatilla County Special Library District (UCSLD) employees and volunteers are such mandatory reporters.

Definitions

Oregon law recognizes these types of child abuse:

- Mental injuries
- Sexual abuse or exploitation
- Rape or incest
- Neglect or maltreatment
- Threatened harm
- Permitting a person under 18 years of age to enter or remain in or upon premises where methamphetamines are being manufactured
- Unlawful exposure to a controlled substance that subjects a child to substantial risk of harm to his/her health or safety.

A child is an unmarried person under the age of 18. Mandatory reporting requirements apply to any child with whom a district employee comes in contact either on or off duty.

Oregon law recognizes these types of elder abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Neglect
- Self-neglect
- Abandonment
- Verbal or emotional abuse
- Financial exploitation
- Sexual abuse
- Involuntary seclusion
- Wrongful restraint

An elder is any person 65 years of age or older. Mandatory reporting requirements apply to any elder or resident of any age in a long-term care facility with whom an employee comes in contact while acting in an official capacity.

Reporting Procedure

Any employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child, elder, or resident of a long-term care facility has been abused or who comes into contact with someone suspected of abusing a child, elderly person, or

resident of a long-term care facility shall comply with reporting requirements by completing the Suspicion of Abuse Report form. The employee shall then immediately inform the District Director.

Immunity of Persons Reporting in Good Faith

Anyone reporting in good faith and who has reasonable grounds for making the report shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed with respect to the making or content of such report. Any such participant shall have the same immunity with respect to participating in any judicial proceeding resulting from such report.

Failure to Comply

Any UCSLD employee subject to this policy who fails to report suspected child or elder abuse as provided by this policy commits a violation punishable by law. Intentionally making a false report of child or elder abuse is also a violation of law.

Training

The UCSLD shall provide training for all new district staff and volunteers subject to this policy and review the policy and procedures at least once annually at general staff training events. The training shall cover the prevention and identification of child and elder abuse and the obligations of district employees and volunteers to report suspected child or elder abuse.