Oregon
Child Abuse Reporting

Who do I contact to report an incident in Oregon?
Report suspected child abuse to the Oregon Abuse Hotline at 1-855-503-SAFE (7233) or call your local police department or county sheriff, county juvenile department or Oregon State Police.

The hotline receives calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

If you think someone is being hurt or is in danger, call 911 immediately. **ORS §419B.015**.

How much time do I have to report an incident?
Reports of suspected child abuse shall be made immediately. **ORS §419B.010(1)**.

What is "child abuse" in Oregon?
Any assault of a child and any physical injury to a child which has been caused by other than accidental means[i]; any mental injury to a child[ii]; rape of a child[iii]; sexual abuse, as defined in ORS chapter 163; sexual exploitation[iv]; negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child[v]; threatened harm to a child[vi]; buying or selling a person under 18 years of age as described in ORS 163.537; 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 as defined in ORS 475.005, or to the unlawful manufacturing of a cannabinoid extract, as defined in ORS 475B.015, that subjects a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child's health or safety. **ORS §419B.005**.

Who is a mandatory reporter in Oregon?
Physician or physician assistant licensed under ORS chapter 677 or naturopathic physician, including any intern or resident; Dentist; School employee, including an employee of a higher education institution; Licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse's aide, home health aide or employee of an in-home health service; Employee of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Early Learning Division, Youth Development Division, 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 child-caring agency as that term is defined in ORS 418.205 or an alcohol and drug treatment program; Peace officer; Psychologist; Member of the clergy; Regulated social worker; Optometrist; Chiropractor; Certified provider of foster care, or an employee thereof; Attorney; Licensed professional counselor; Licensed marriage and family therapist; Firefighter or emergency medical services provider; A court appointed special advocate as defined in ORS 419A.004; A child care provider registered or certified under ORS 329A.250 to 329A.450; Member of the Legislative Assembly; Physical, speech or occupational therapist; Audiologist; Speech-language pathologist; Employee of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission directly involved in investigations or discipline by the commission; Pharmacist; An operator of a preschool recorded program under ORS 329A.255; An operator of a school-age recorded program under 329A.257; Employee of private agency or organization facilitating the provision of respite services, as defined in ORS 418.205, for parents pursuant to a properly executed power of attorney

under ORS 109.056; Employee of a public or private organization providing child-related services or activities - Including but not limited to youth groups or centers, scout groups or camps, summer or day camps, survival camps or groups, centers or camps that are operated under the guidance, supervision or auspices of religious, public or private educational systems or community service organizations; and Excluding community-based, nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to provide confidential, direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking; A coach, assistant coach or trainer of an amateur, semiprofessional or professional athlete, if compensated and if the athlete is a child; Personal support worker; Home care worker as defined in ORS 410.600; Animal control officer, as defined in ORS 609.500; Member of a school district board or public charter school governing body; An individual who is paid by a public body, in accordance with ORS 430.215, to provide a service identified in an individualized written service plan of a child with a developmental disability. **ORS §419B.005(6)**.

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Oregon?
Yes. **ORS §419B.005(6)(h)**.

Is there an exception for penitential communication in Oregon?
Yes, a member of the clergy is not required to report such information communicated by a person if the communication is privileged. **ORS §419B.010(1)**.

How is penitential communication defined?
Oregon law uses the term "privileged communication" in the context of the clergy-penitent privilege. It is defined as, "A communication made privately and not intended for further disclosure except to other persons present in furtherance of the purpose of the communication." **ORS §40.260**.

The privilege does not apply if Clergy become aware of the abuse outside of the private communication.

Where can I find Oregon law on child abuse?
https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors419B.html

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[i] Including any injury which appears to be at variance with the explanation given of the injury
[ii] Which shall include only observable and substantial impairment of the child's psychological ability to function caused by cruelty to the child, with due regard to the culture of the child
[iii] Which includes but is not limited to rape, sodomy, unlawful sexual penetration and incest, as those acts are described in ORS chapter 163
[iv] Including but not limited to: contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor, any other conduct which 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 which, in whole or in part depicts sexual conduct or contact, sexual abuse involving a child or rape of a child, but not including any conduct which is part of any investigation conducted pursuant to ORS 419B.020 or which is designed to serve educational or other legitimate purposes; allowing, permitting, encouraging or hiring a child to engage in prostitution or a commercial sex act, to purchase sex with a minor or to engage in commercial sexual solicitation.
[v] 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
[vi] Which means subjecting a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare.