

Crook County Library

Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Policy

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees on September 8, 2016

Purpose

Oregon law mandates that workers in certain positions must report if they have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect. These people are called mandatory reporters. Crook County Library employees, fall within the definition of “public or private officials” defined in ORS 419B.005, are obligated to report suspected abuse while either on or off duty per the terms of ORS 419B.010.

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, as defined in ORS 475.005, that subjects a child to substantial risk of harm to his/her health or safety.

“Abuse” does not include reasonable discipline unless the discipline results in one of the conditions described above.

A child is an unmarried person under the age of 18.

Reporting Procedure

Any employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or who comes into contact with someone suspected of abusing a child will immediately notify the Oregon Department of Human Services or law enforcement. Law enforcement can include the Prineville Police, the County Sheriff’s Office, the Oregon State Police, or the County Juvenile Department. The employee will then immediately inform the Library Director or designee.

A written record of the abuse report will be made by the employee suspecting the abuse of a child. The report must contain, if known, the following information:

- The names and addresses of the child and parents/guardians responsible for the child's care;
- The child's age;
- The nature and extent of abuse (including any evidence of previous abuse, if any);

- The explanation given for the abuse;
- Any information the employee believes may be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse or the perpetrator's identity.

In keeping with the Library's Privacy Policy, and subject to a valid subpoena or public records request reviewed by the County Counsel's office, employees may not share private information stored in the library's databases including but not limited to addresses, birthdates, or contact information.

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 library employee subject to this policy who fails to report suspected child abuse as provided by this policy commits a violation punishable by law. Intentionally making a false report of child abuse is also a violation of law. If an employee fails to report suspected abuse of a child or fails to maintain confidentiality of records as required by this policy, they will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

Training

The Library will provide annual training for all District staff and volunteers subject to this policy. The training will cover the prevention and identification of child abuse and the obligations of District employees and volunteers to report suspected child abuse.