

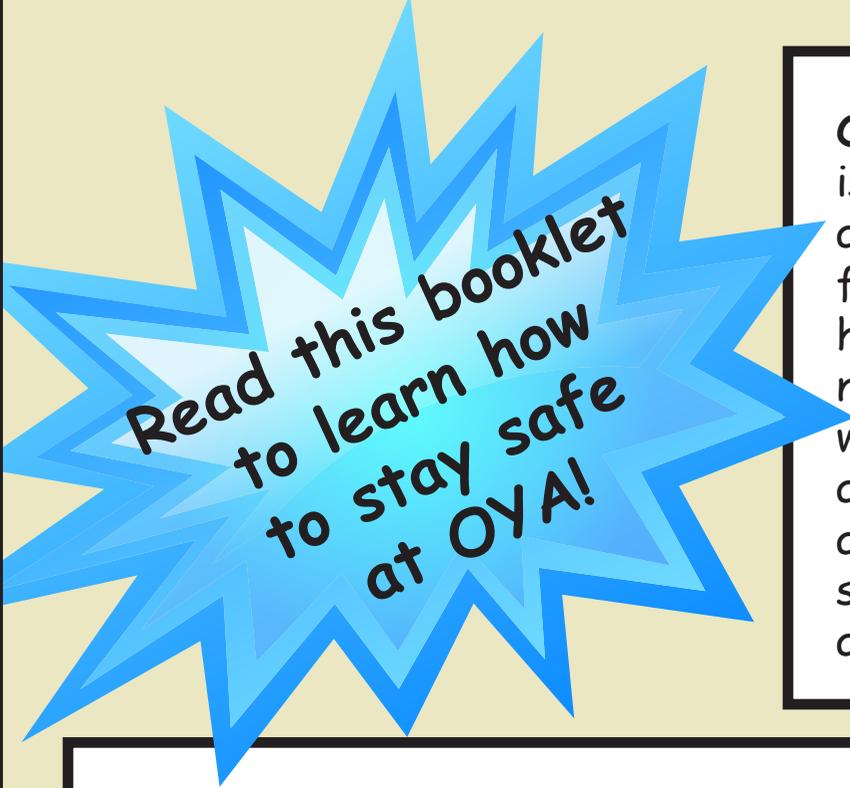


Youth Safety Guide

A group of four diverse young people (two men and two women) are smiling and holding a large white sign. They are positioned behind the sign, with their hands visible at the top edge. The background is a plain white oval.

**Your Safety
Is Important**

OYA Hotline: 1-800-315-5440



**Read this booklet
to learn how
to stay safe
at OYA!**

Our mission is to hold you accountable for your actions, help you learn new and better ways of thinking and behaving, and keep you safe while you are with OYA.

What's inside this booklet?

This pamphlet tells you how to:

- ✓ **Be safe in OYA facilities, residential programs, and foster care homes.**
- ✓ **Get help if you are abused or harmed.**
- ✓ **Report if you or someone you know is abused or harmed.**
- ✓ **Be free from retaliation.**

OYA works hard to keep you safe

Staff members:

- Supervise you in person and with cameras.
- Make sure you know the safety rules.
- Report any abuse that occurs.
- Hold the abuser accountable.

It is **wrong** for anyone to threaten
or hurt another person.

Everyone
– including **YOU** –
deserves to be safe.

**OYA has ZERO TOLERANCE
for ANY kind of abusive behavior!**

If a youth, staff member,
foster parent, volunteer,
or anyone else is abusive,
OYA will investigate
and hold the person accountable.



Abuse
can be
verbal,
physical,
emotional,
or sexual.

What is abuse?

Abuse includes:

- ✓ Hitting
- ✓ Forcing
- ✓ Scaring
- ✓ Bullying
- ✓ Threatening
- ✓ Intimidating
- ✓ Sexually harassing
- ✓ Making mean comments



What about sexual activity?

All sexual activity between a youth and an adult is against the law.

All sexual activity between youth is prohibited and — in most cases — is against the law.

Any attempt to encourage or force sexual behavior is prohibited.

OYA will investigate and prosecute abusers as the law allows.

How do you stay safe?

Here are some things you can do to stay safe.

- ✓ **Pay attention to where you are.**
Stay with the main group where staff can see you.
- ✓ **Avoid situations that make you uncomfortable.**
Trust your gut feelings. If a situation feels wrong, it probably is wrong.
- ✓ **Do not accept an offer of protection.**
Someone who offers to protect you may want something in return.
- ✓ **Avoid sharing private information.**
Don't say anything that can be used against you.
- ✓ **Be careful of getting special attention.**
Someone who gives you special attention may be setting you up to be abused.
- ✓ **Do not accept a loan or gift.**
Avoid owing anything to anyone.



Take action!

Tell a staff member right away if someone does something that makes you uncomfortable.

If the person you tell doesn't believe you, tell another staff member or adult you trust. Keep telling people until someone takes you seriously.

Report abuse!

If you are abused or know someone who has been abused, we urge you to **report** it.

We know it can be scary to report abuse, but we will help you through it. When you report abuse, you help make sure that you and others are safe from more harm.



Speak up!!
Do not let manners
get in the way
of staying safe.

Who will know if I make a report?

OYA will keep your report as private as possible. If you tell an OYA staff member, that person will know what to do to help you.

You can make a report to a person or call the
OYA Hotline at 1-800-315-5440.

If you call the OYA Hotline, give as many details as you can. You do not have to give your name. It is easier for OYA to investigate the report if you give your name, but it's up to you.

If you give your name, an OYA investigator may speak with you. Staff will avoid sharing your name with the abuser or any other person who does not need to know what happened. Some staff members may need to know in order to keep you safe. Sometimes if a case goes to court, other people also have to know.



How do I report abuse if I live in a community residential program or with a foster family?

Call the OYA Hotline at 1-800-315-5440.

Give as many details as you can to help the people who will investigate. An investigator from the OYA Professional Standards Office will follow up on your report.

Talk to or send a letter to an adult you trust.

This could be a:

- ✓ Counselor
- ✓ Probation/parole officer
- ✓ Police officer
- ✓ Parent or guardian
- ✓ Chaplain or minister
- ✓ Volunteer
- ✓ Teacher
- ✓ Coach
- ✓ Attorney
- ✓ Advocate
- ✓ Any adult you trust



How do I report abuse if I live in an OYA close-custody facility?

Call the OYA Hotline at 1-800-315-5440.

Give as many details as you can to help the people who will investigate. An investigator from the OYA Professional Standards Office will follow up on your report.

Talk to or send a letter to an adult you trust.

This could be a:

- ✓ Probation/parole officer
- ✓ Group life coordinator
- ✓ Treatment manager
- ✓ Nurse
- ✓ Teacher
- ✓ QMHP
- ✓ Volunteer
- ✓ Attorney
- ✓ Advocate
- ✓ Parent or guardian
- ✓ Chaplain or minister
- ✓ Any adult you trust



What if I am sexually abused?

If you are sexually abused, we urge you to:

- ✓ Report the abuse to a staff member or other adult.
- ✓ Seek medical help right away.

Do not:

- ✓ Clean yourself, shower, or brush your teeth.
 - ✓ Use the restroom.
 - ✓ Eat or drink.
 - ✓ Change your clothes.



It is important that you help save evidence so OYA can act against the person who abused you.

What happens after I report abuse?

- ✓ You will get medical care and counseling if you need it.
- ✓ If you or the abuser need to be moved for your safety, OYA staff will do that.
- ✓ OYA will report the abuse to law enforcement.

What should I do if I see or suspect abuse?

Please report any abuse you see or suspect. OYA will investigate to find the truth. You will not get in trouble if you make an honest report. However, if you knowingly make a false report, you will be held accountable.

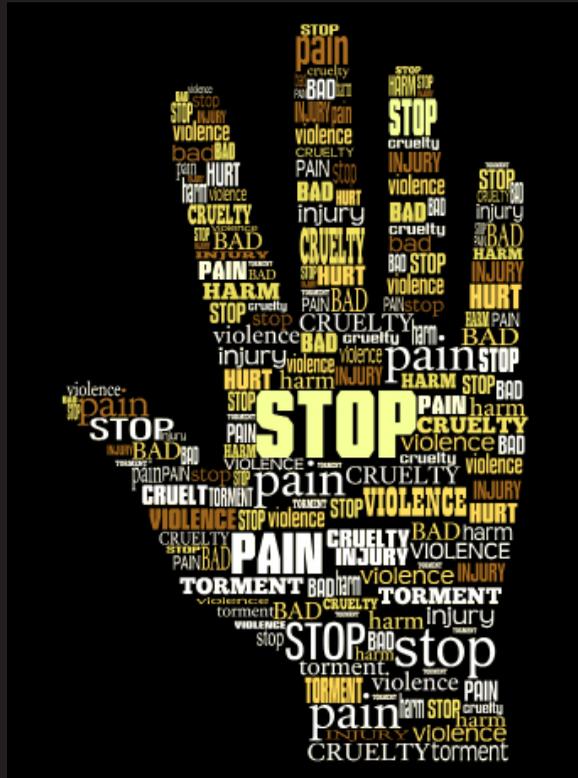
What if someone tries to get even with me for reporting abuse?

You and everyone else have the right to be free from abuse and retaliation. Report any suspected retaliation right away so OYA can investigate and keep you safe.

What will happen if I abuse someone?

If you abuse someone, OYA will seek criminal charges against you. If you are found guilty, you will face more time in custody. If you have trouble controlling your actions, seek help before you harm anyone.





Oregon Youth Authority

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