

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES: IMPACT TO ODDS

OVERVIEW

In 2017, legislation passed that increased oversight in out-of-home care settings, including ODDS (Office of Developmental Disabilities Services) licensed group homes and ODDS certified foster homes. The changes are aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being needs of children and young adults in these settings are met. Remember, a child or young adult receiving ODDS services may be living in any one the out-of-home care settings, not just those licensed or certified by ODDS.

- There are new types of abuse that apply to children and young adults in most out-of-home care settings, such as physical injury, neglect, abandonment, willful infliction of pain, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, financial exploitation, involuntary seclusion, and wrongful use of a physical or chemical restraint. While these terms may sound familiar, each has a unique definition in Oregon law. Click [here](#) to learn more about the new types of abuse.
- Some reports of abuse that would have previously been closed at screening and dealt with as a licensing or certification violation may now be investigated as abuse.
- Starting January 1st, 2018, OAAPI will be responsible for screening and investigating reports involving youth living in ODDS licensed group homes. CPS will continue to be responsible for screening and assessment of reports involving a foster home certified by ODDS.

I'm a foster parent or group home employee. What do I need to know?

- In addition to previous mandatory child abuse reporting requirements (click [here](#) for a brief video about mandatory reporting), foster parents and group home employees must report the new additional types of abuse (click [here](#) for more information).
- Foster parents and group homes must provide annual training and materials to any paid employees on their obligation to report abuse. (Very few foster parents have paid employees working in their home, but if you do, talk to your certifier to learn more.)

I'm a CDDP service coordinator or a certifier for foster homes. What do I need to know?

- Be prepared to answer questions from foster parents who have questions about the new abuse reporting and training requirements or additional types of abuse that may be investigated.
- All appropriate staff must be notified when a report of abuse is received regarding a foster home or group home. Therefore, when Child Welfare receives a report of abuse involving a foster home or when OAAPI receives a report of abuse in a group home, you will be notified if you are the CDDP coordinator for the child or young adult or the foster home certifier for the home. Be prepared to share information needed to ensure safety.
- DHS now has authority to suspend or revoke a foster home certification or group home license if a foster parent or group home interferes with or hinders a child abuse investigation.

- Foster parents and group homes are required to provide annual training and materials to all employees and volunteers regarding mandatory child abuse reporting as a condition of certification or licensure. Resources will be provided to assist you and providers in implementing these changes.