

Senate Bill 1515: What are your responsibilities?

To: DHS All Staff

From: DHS Director Clyde Saiki

Right now, there is still some work underway to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 1515. Our goal in implementing the bill is to keep children safe and well cared for. Even if you have no connection to this work, SB 1515 requires all DHS employees to report concerns involving a private DHS-licensed child caring agency (CCA). Failure to do so could mean serious consequences, and I want to make your responsibilities very clear.

Beginning July 1, 2016 **all DHS employees** must;

- ***Report any abuses, deficiencies, violations or failures to comply with licensing rules, immediately to the DHS Director or designee.***
- ***Report any concerns regarding child abuse, health, safety or welfare at a child caring agency (CCA) immediately to the DHS Director or designee. Please note: failure to make this report could constitute a crime of official misconduct in the second degree.***

Beginning July 1, 2016 the **DHS Director or designee** must;

- ***Take immediate and appropriate action in response to any of the reports listed above.***
- ***Failure to act immediately could constitute a crime of official misconduct in the second degree.***

You can report concerns about a CCA by:

Phone: 503-945-6843 (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm) or

1-800-509-5439 (afterhours or weekend)

Email: CCA.reports@dhsoha.state.or.us

The purpose of today's message is to explain what your responsibilities are and how to make these types of reports. As a DHS employee you are a mandatory reporter and have a duty to report suspected abuse of children, people who are elderly or dependent, with mental illness or developmental disabilities, and residents of nursing homes and other health care facilities. You can use the statewide hotline number for these reports 1-855-503-SAFE.

This is new. SB 1515 necessitates a report to the DHS Director as soon as staff become aware of any abuses, deficiencies, violations or failures to comply with licensing rules. The law also specifically directs staff to immediately report any concerns regarding child health safety or welfare immediately to the DHS Director or designee. Failure to make this second report could constitute a crime of official misconduct in the second degree. Failure of the Director or designee to take immediate action could also constitute official misconduct in the second degree.

You don't have to be a licensing or child welfare expert to make a report. If you have reasonable cause to believe a CCA is not operating in a safe manner, not providing enough food or the children's hygiene needs are not being met please make a report.

We have a list of CCAs online <https://inside.dhsoha.state.or.us/dhs/child-welfare/licensed-child-caring-agencies.html>.

For more information please contact SB 1515 Project Manager, Helen Hoang helen.h.hoang@dhsoha.state.or.us or visit the SB 1515 web page <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/CHILDREN/Pages/sb1515.aspx>

[Information on how this bill affects all DHS employees please see SB 1515 chart.](#)

<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/CHILDREN/sb1515/matrix2.pdf>

Thanks,
Clyde