

OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY

Policy Summary



Family Support in Youth Reformation

The following is only a summary of OYA policy [I-A-9.0 Parent-Guardian and Family Involvement in Youth Reformation](#). Please refer to the policy for full details and as the official policy record. For other policies, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/oia/aboutoia/pages/policies.aspx>.

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) believes that family involvement is essential to a youth's success in the reformation process. Families provide vital support that helps youth grow, develop positive skills, and prepare for a successful future. This policy explains how OYA includes families in youth case planning, supervision, and treatment.

Who is Considered Family?

Family includes biological and legal parents, siblings, children, guardians, foster parents, domestic partners, and other relatives by blood or social relationships. It also includes any supportive person identified by the youth who plays a positive role in their life.

How Families Are Involved

- Families are encouraged to participate in the youth's case planning and treatment.
- Parents and guardians will receive information about OYA's programs and services.
- Families will be invited to key meetings and decisions regarding the youth's progress.
- OYA prioritizes culturally relevant and appropriate services for youth and their families.

How Information Is Shared

- Families can request general information about OYA.
- Case-related information may be shared if the youth signs a release of information form or if the youth is under 18 and the information benefits their reformation.
- Some medical and mental health information may require the youth's consent due to Oregon laws.

Family Orientation

- Parents and guardians will receive an orientation packet when a youth enters OYA custody.
 - Orientation includes information about OYA, reporting abuse, filing grievances, contact information, and available language and cultural services.
 - OYA staff will discuss this information with families before the youth's first case planning meeting.
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Assessment and Case Planning

- Families will be contacted and interviewed during the intake period to complete the OYA Risk/Needs Assessment.
 - Staff will explain roles and responsibilities, discuss language and cultural needs, and share family support resources.
 - Families are encouraged to participate in the youth's assessment and planning.
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Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Meetings

- These meetings guide the youth's treatment and case plan.
 - Families are an essential part of these meetings.
 - OYA will make accommodations, such as videoconferencing or phone calls, to ensure family participation.
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Notification of Significant Events

- Parents and guardians will be informed of any major changes in the youth's status, health, or placement.
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Visitation

- OYA encourages family visits and will follow any court orders regarding visitation.
 - The visiting approval process is outlined in OYA's visitation policy.
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When Family Involvement is Limited

- Parents and guardians are included in a youth's reformation unless they pose a threat to the youth's safety or hinder a youth's reformation.
 - Any decision to temporarily suspend a parent's involvement will be made by the appropriate assistant director and will be communicated in writing with clear expectations and steps for reinstatement.
 - Any recommendation to temporarily suspend a family member's (other than parent/guardian) involvement has to be made by the youth's MDT and will include a specific reason. Any decision will be made by the appropriate field supervisor or facility superintendent/camp director. If temporarily suspended, the MDT will then review possible reinstatement monthly.
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OYA's Commitment to Families OYA recognizes the importance of family in a youth's journey to reformation. We strive to include families in meaningful ways while ensuring the youth's safety and progress. If you have any questions about how you can be involved in your youth's case, please contact your youth's case manager or parole/probation officer.