

Senate Bill 1515 Ensuring Safe Children

Senate Bill 1515 will help DHS keep children safe while receiving care from a DHS licensed Child Caring Agency (CCA) The requirements of SB 1515 make clear the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to producing better outcomes for children served by a CCA. This is a department wide effort that requires all employees to participate and know their duties. Most of the requirements of SB 1515 take effect on July 1, 2016. Learn how you can meet your obligation below. Every Oregon child and youth in care deserves to grow up safely, so please do your part.

	Director's Office	All DHS Employees	Background Check Unit	Child Welfare	OAAPI	OLRO
What changes?	When staff report safety concerns in a CCA to the Director's office, the Director or designee must investigate and take appropriate action. Failure to do so could constitute official misconduct in the second degree.	Required to immediately report to the Director or designee whenever an employee believes that an abuse or violation by a CCA constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of a child or the public. Failure to do so could constitute official misconduct in the second degree. The law also requires DHS to immediately investigate anytime DHS becomes aware of abuses, deficiencies, violations or failures to comply with DHS licensing rules in a CCA. All employees should report these to the Director's office as well. Finally, there is a new, broader and expanded definition of abuse for children in the care of a CCA. If there is reasonable cause to believe that this type of abuse has occurred, an employee should make a report to the hotline.	Protective orders against proctor foster homes will now be included in a background check. A list of substantiated or open abuse/neglect investigations will also be provided to CCAs.	Screen reports on all calls on individuals up to 21 years of age who reside in or receive services from a CCA or proctor foster home. New definition of abuse applies to calls regarding CCAs and proctor foster homes. New cross-reporting requirement to Law Enforcement regarding crimes that are unrelated to the abuse report. Required to ensure safe environment that meets child's needs for health, safety and well-being. Required to make report to CCA.reports@dhs.ohs.state.or.us Must inform child they can be interviewed without presence of CCA staff, or DHS staff, and may have their attorney present and parent if child not in DHS custody. CASA, attorney, parent/guardians will be notified of all reports received including closed at screening. Standard for substantiated abuse finding has changed from preponderance of evidence to reasonable cause to believe.	Screen reports on all calls on individuals up to 21 years of age who reside in or receive services from a CCA or proctor foster home. New definition of abuse applies to calls regarding CCAs and proctor foster homes. New cross-reporting requirement to Law Enforcement regarding crimes that are unrelated to the abuse report. New notification process regarding reports of non-abuse. Standard for substantiated abuse finding has changed from preponderance of evidence to reasonable cause to believe.	Doubling the number of agency inspections from one every two years to one per year. More stringent licensing rules required around financial management and child safety. Case workers have immediate access to child's information and premises. If CCAs fail to comply, they may be subject to licensing actions. Increased authority and means by which to take action on licenses when a CCA is in violation of standard.
Training	"Reporting on Child Safety and Well-being in CCAs" located on the SB 1515 webpage	"Reporting on Child Safety and Well-being in CCAs" located on the SB 1515 webpage	SB 1515 Changes to Background Check Procedures, Phone Conferences 1-877-336-1828 code 130849 (6/30 10-11am, 7/12/16 10-11am, 7/14/2016 2-3pm), BCU Background Check Procedures	Phone Conference 6/30/16 and 7/1/16, Policy Transmittal, PowerPoint, Confirming Safe Environments	OAAPI PowerPoint, Procedure Manual	Caseworker Licensing Guide
More information	SB 1515 SB 1515 Training Materials (DHS Intranet)	SB 1515 SB 1515 Training Materials (DHS Intranet)	SB 1515 web page SB 1515 Training Materials (DHS Intranet)	SB 1515 SB 1515 Training Materials (DHS Intranet)	SB 1515 SB 1515 Training Materials (DHS Intranet)	SB 1515 SB 1515 Training Materials (DHS Intranet)