



You deserve to be safe.

What if I am sexually abused?

Report the abuse to a staff member or other adult, and seek medical help right away.

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

OYA asks that you do not do these things until after you have received help:

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

What will happen if I abuse someone?

- OYA will investigate the abuse and 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.

Is it OK for me to participate in sexual activities while I’m in custody?

- All sexual activity between a youth and an adult is against the law.
- All sexual activity between OYA youth is not allowed 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 to Stay Safe

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



Oregon Youth Authority
Professional Standards Office

Phone: 503-378-5313
Email: ProfessionalStandards.Office@oya.state.or.us
Online: oregon.gov/OYA
OYA Hotline: 1-800-315-5440



Youth Safety Guide



It is wrong for anyone to threaten or hurt another person. Everyone — including you — deserves to be safe.

OYA works hard to keep you safe. We have **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.

Defining Abuse

Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Sexual Harassment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hitting• Forcing• Scaring• Bullying• Threatening• Intimidating• Sexually harassing• Sexually abusing• Making mean comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When anyone has any kind of sexual contact with you without your permission.• When another youth intentionally touches your butt, breast, inner thigh, or genitals over or under your clothing without you wanting them to. This includes touching these areas during horseplay.• When a staff person, teacher, volunteer, or other contracted employee intentionally touches your butt, breast, inner thigh, or genitals over or under your clothing, except when they need to as part of their official duties. It’s abuse from staff even if you tell them it’s OK.	<p>When another youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Makes repeated, unwanted sexual advances• Makes requests for sexual favors• Makes comments, gestures, or actions that are offensive to you <p>When a staff person, teacher, volunteer, or other contracted employee makes repeated comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a youth. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• References to gender• Derogatory comments about body or clothing• Obscene language or gestures• Sexually suggestive comments• Comments of a romantic nature

Take action. Report abuse!

There are four main ways you can report abuse.

These ways apply no matter where you are living — at home, in a youth correctional facility, in a community residential program, or in a foster home.

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

This could be a:

- Counselor
- Nurse
- Volunteer
- Juvenile parole/probation officer
- Teacher
- Teacher or coach
- Group life coordinator
- QMHP
- Attorney
- Living unit manager
- Police officer
- Residential program staff
- Case coordinator
- Parent or guardian
- Foster parent
- Chaplain or minister

2 Call the OYA Hotline: 1-800-315-5440.

You will be asked to leave a message. Please give as many details as you can. You do not have to give your name, but it's easier for OYA to investigate the report if you do. If you give your name, an OYA investigator will contact you.

Messages on the reporting line are only checked between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays, and not on holidays. If your situation is an emergency and you need immediate help, you should also talk to an adult you trust.

3 Turn in a grievance form.

You can find grievance forms in your facility living unit or at your community program. You can also ask any OYA or program staff member for a form.

If you are in the community, you can also fill out our online grievance form. Go to www.oregon.gov/OYA and look for the "Report Abuse" link.

4 Write a letter to the Governor's Office for Constituent Services.

This office is not part of OYA. They also accept reports of abuse.

Governor's Constituent Services Office

900 Court St. Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301

We want
to keep
you safe.



What happens after I report abuse?

- We will get you medical care and counseling, if you need it.
- If you or the abuser needs to be moved for your safety, we will do that.
- OYA's Professional Standards Office will investigate your report along with the police.

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.

An OYA investigator may speak with you. Staff will not share your name with the abuser or any other person who does not need to know what happened.

Some staff members may need to know about your report in order to keep you safe. Sometimes if a case goes to court, other people also have to know.

What if the person I tell doesn't believe me?

Tell another staff member or adult you trust. Keep telling people until someone takes you seriously.

We know it can be scary to report abuse. But when you report it, you help make sure that you and others are safe from more harm.



OYA Hotline:
1-800-315-5440

Victim Advocates

If you want to talk with someone, but you're not ready to file a report...

There are victim advocates in the community who can provide emotional support. **They are not mandatory reporters.** That means if you tell them about abuse, they are not required to report it to authorities.

In OYA facilities: The name and number of your local advocate is posted in your living unit.

In the community: The Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence can help you find an advocate.

Online: ocadsv.org

Phone: 503-230-1951

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

This is called retaliation, and OYA will not allow it. Report it to a trusted adult right away so OYA can investigate and keep you safe.

What if I see, suspect, or hear about someone else being abused?

Please report it! 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.

If another youth tells you about abuse, but you didn't see it — you should still report it!