

Presentation to the House Interim Committee
on Early Childhood and Human Services



Keeping Children Safe: ORCAH Screening and CPS Assessment Process

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Agenda

1. ORCAH screening process
2. Who gets investigated, and why
3. CPS assessment
4. Determination of safety decisions
5. Determination of finding
6. Process and outcomes of court jurisdiction
7. Q+A
8. Learn more / contact us



Every child deserves to be safe

Keeping children safe is a shared responsibility and the core value of Oregon's Child Welfare program.



Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH) overview

**Available 24/7
365 a year**

2025 by the numbers:



172,841 contacts to the hotline



97,058 screening reports
documented



47,298 assigned to CPS for
assessment

ORCAH overview: decisions

Three primary decisions:



Does the information
require
documentation?



Is there an allegation of
child abuse?



Determine CPS
response time.

ORCAH overview: report received and assigned

Role of the screener

Screening decision



Criteria to assign:

- A child
- A report of abuse

Response timeline



- 24 hours
- 72 hours
- 10 business days

Cross report to law enforcement



- Where abuse occurred
- Where child lives
- Where reporter had contact

Who gets investigated



Anyone who is reported for doing something to a child that constitutes child abuse can be investigated for child abuse.

Department's responsibility not limited by statute to:

- Who the alleged perpetrator might be
- What access they had to the child
- What the current circumstances might be.

Child Welfare: Who gets investigated

Many types of abuse require a mandatory report and an investigation.

In most of those cases, the person who can be considered responsible is not specified.

Scope was previously focused on:

- The child's family
- Household members
- Child Welfare resource parents

Scope expanded to include:

- Minors
- Non-professional third party perpetrators
- Unknown perpetrators

OTIS: Who gets investigated

Many types of abuse require a mandatory report and an investigation.

In most of those cases, the person who can be considered responsible is not specified.

Scope was previously focused on:

- Child care/daycare providers
- Child Caring Agencies (CCAs)
- ODDS licensed settings for children
- I/DD Foster Homes

Scope expanded to include:

- Public education personnel
- All professionals with access to children
- Strangers/Internet Crimes

CPS Assessments



Purpose of CPS assessment

CPS assessments help answer two primary questions:

Did abuse occur?

- Abuse is confirmed,
- Abuse did not occur, or
- There is not enough information to decide

Is the child safe?

Does a safety threat exist in the family?

Is the child likely to be imminently and severely harmed by the threatening family condition?

If yes, the child is unsafe

Child Abuse Assessment Process: Safety Decisions

Identifying Danger



- Present Danger
- Impending Danger



Safety Threat Identification



- 16 safety threats
- Five threshold criteria

Child Abuse Assessment Process: Safety Planning

In-Home Criteria



- Home-like setting
- No barriers to safety services and providers
- Adequate safety services and providers
- Parent willing to follow safety plan

Identifying relatives, safety services and providers



Gather information about who can support the safety plan

Child Abuse Assessment Process: Intervention

Service Referral



- Identify assistance needs
- Engage family
- Offer referrals

Legal



- Least restrictive
- Consider legal and physical custody
- ICWA/ORICWA

Complete CPS assessment



Case is transferred to a permanency caseworker

Dispositions



Child Abuse Assessment Process: Disposition

Disposition



- Founded
- Unfounded
- Unable to Determine

- Based on legal standard of “reasonable cause”

Child Abuse Assessment Process: Disposition due process

Notification



- Notice of founded disposition
- Includes how to request a review of decision



Review Disposition



- Local
- Central
- Judicial Review

Questions



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
Human Services

Thank you

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