

**Substantiated allegations of wrongful restraint or seclusion
in certified foster care
2021-September 30, 2024**

(Note: These are investigated and substantiated by CPS instead of by OTIS. There is no available dashboard to look at total allegations, substantiations, individuals investigated or individuals substantiated. Each scenario below includes at least one founded allegation of wrongful restraint or wrongful seclusion. There may be additional founded allegations, but they are not included here.)

April 2021, Yamhill County, Wrongful Restraint

The resource parent grabbed the child by the face and squeezed so hard the child reported struggling to breathe. The other resource parent grabbed the child, who was hiding under the bed and dragged her out, causing physical pain. He also sprayed her in the face with vinegar, also causing pain. While the foster mother held the child in a wrongful restraint, the foster father grabbed and pulled her hair. Both were founded for wrongful restraint as it was reported that both of the resource parents would use holds on the child, referring to this as “tie ins” and would restrict the child’s movement. They would also chain the child to objects such as the chicken coop, chairs, her bed and to the foster father himself. Both resource parents were also founded for verbal abuse in care due to cursing, screaming and using other inappropriate language towards the child. The allegation of involuntary seclusion was founded due to the child being forced to stay outside on a cold winter night while wearing only a t-shirt and shorts and no shoes. Another child indicated that this child was out for “half the night” and when allowed inside was forced to sleep on the floor. The resource parents were founded for mental injury as all of these behaviors caused the child to want to die and felt like a wild animal.

Child removed from home. Certification closed.

May 2021, Lane County, Wrongful Restraint

Child disclose that the resource parent placed him in multiple holds, holding his wrists and using bear hugs. The resource parent also used his knee to hold the child down. Additionally, two children in the home reported the other resource parent would swear and scream, threaten to kill them and make other inappropriate comments.

Child moved from home; certification closed.

September 2021, Marion County, Wrongful Restraint

Resource parents were placing the foster children in holds or were physically preventing them from leaving rooms, tents, etc. when escalated. Additionally the resource parents allowed the children to continue to share a room despite ongoing combative behavior between the children as well as one child wrapping a belt around another child's neck, briefly cutting off his breathing.

Children moved from home; certification closed.

February, 2022, Marion County, Wrongful restraint

Resource parents were giving the children unsafe levels of melatonin for sleep. One of the children was also physically restrained and secluded in his bedroom with his door shut for punishment.

No child is placed in the home. Certification is closed.

June 2022, Klamath County, Wrongful restraint

Two foster children disclosed that the resource parent was tying them up and putting them in corners for punishment.

No child is placed in the home, certification closed.

August 2022, Clackamas County, Wrongful seclusion

Resource parents received founded dispositions regarding the neglect of two children in their care. One of the children was kept in his bedroom and his basic needs, including toileting, and eating, were not addressed. The child's sister was parentified, attempting to meet the needs of the child's sibling. The resource parents were blocking one of the children's doorway as to prevent him from leaving his room. The child was not allowed to leave the room, including to use the restroom or to eat. The local CAC evaluated these children and also diagnosed emotional abuse due to one child being suffering from food insecurity and a fear of the dark now as well the sibling who had to watch the child having food withheld for punishment, along with having to write sentences.

Historical report of abuse, home not certified at time of report. Remains closed.

January 2023, Deschutes County, Wrongful restraint

Resource parent installed lock on children's door that locked from the outside and has locked two children in the room several times in order to address their behavior. The resource parent made of fun of a child and talked badly of him within his presence.

Certificate remains open with a signed Management Approval for Founded disposition on file following successful completion of Placement Support Plan; Child at focus of assessment moved from home, other child(ren) remain.

January 2023, Marion County, Wrongful Restraint

The significant other of the resource parent held a child down on the floor, not allowing her to get up as punishment. The resource parent did not intervene. The resource parent allowed unsupervised contact with an individual not cleared by the agency. The resource parent also would force a child into her bedroom and hold the door shut as a form of discipline.

Certification closed. Child(ren) removed from home.

January 2023, Polk County Wrongful restraint

Resource parents would withhold food from the child when he refused to put his pajamas on. They would also lock the child out of the home for a short period of time

while he was having "meltdowns." They also admitted to restraining the child in his car seat for up to an hour to address his behaviors.

Certificate placed on inactive referral status pending voluntary closure or revocation; Children moved from home.

April 2023, Marion County, Involuntary Seclusion

Relative resource parent admitted to putting hot sauce in the child's mouth as well as spanking his bottom on multiple occasions. The child was also locked in his room, with a chair used to block the door to keep the child from exiting his room. An uncle in the home admitted to spanking the child on multiple occasions.

Certification closed. Child(ren) removed from home

June 2023, Josephine County, Wrongful restraint

The resource parent's adult child is a DSP for the foster child. The DSP heard the child punching holes in the wall and "swept his feet" from under him, then attempted to restrain the foster child, trying to calm him. The child attempted to pull the DSP off of him when the DSP grabbed his throat, restricting his airway. The resource parent was aware her son was using holds and restraints despite not having been appropriately trained. She also witnessed the incident and did not intervene.

Certification closed; Child(ren) moved from home.

October 2023, Josephine County, Wrongful restraint

Resource parent utilized highchair as a form of discipline. Other children in the home said the child was left in the highchair until he complied with the resource parent's direction. The resource parent's use of the high chair and the extensive time outs in the pack and play caused the child to have more behavioral issues and regress in potty training. The resource parent was reported to "flip out" at the children, cussing and putting them down. Other children in the home would attempt to protect the others who were targeted by the resource family.

Certification closed; Child(ren) moved from home.

December 2023, Marion County, Wrongful restraint

One child reported the resource parent threw a knife at him after he asked if he could play Nintendo. The children reported independently that the resource parent hold their heads under water as a form of discipline. There was also concern regarding the resource parent pulling one of the child's hair.

Certification closed; Child(ren) moved from home.

January 2024, Lane County, Wrongful restraint

Two instances where the resource parent utilized placing the child in her car seat, using it as a physical restraint to keep the child from hurting herself or her siblings.

Certification remains active, Child(ren) remain in placement; Management Approval for Founded Disposition signed.

