

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORTING FOR: LINN – BENTON - LINCOLN COUNTY



Reporting Child Abuse In Linn Benton and Lincoln Counties

Child Abuse Hotline: 541-757-5019

Toll Free: 866-303-4643

If you have reason to believe that child abuse may have occurred, you must IMMEDIATELY report to DHS or Law Enforcement.

Examples of Abuse:

Physical Injury and child reports being hurt or injured or child's explanation of the injury is not consistent with the injury.

Neglect: Child is being endangered. Lack of food, clothing, medical attention, supervision of young child.

Mental Injury: Extreme humiliation, cruel or unconscionable statements and/or acts that have a direct effect on the child.

Sexual Abuse: Sexual contact, exposure to sexual material, sex with a child under the age of 18 years old.

Threat of Harm: Caregiver behavior threatens child safety. Examples: Domestic Violence in front of children, driving while intoxicated.

TIPS FOR MANDATED REPORTERS AT SCHOOLS: Too many questions or too few?

The amount of questioning mandated reporters do depends on what is appropriate for their job. School personnel have ongoing relationships with children. Because of these relationships, children often feel safe to disclose at school. School personnel are also in a position to notice changes in children's behavior or appearance that may be concerning for abuse.

DHS cannot respond unless there is a specific allegation of abuse. "Mary seems withdrawn and quiet," is not an allegation of abuse. "Mary said she got hit by her mom," is potentially an allegation of abuse. However, we need your help in gathering additional details to help us make a decision about our response.

We do not want reporters to feel that they are being asked to investigate. Additional details can be gathered by listening, being sympathetic, asking questions you might naturally ask a child out of concern for their well being. You can help DHS make informed decisions that are in the best interest of children. Additional helpful information for us includes:

- When did this occur?
- Is there a mark or injury?
- Does the child appear to be in pain?
- Was any context given (accidental, part of discipline, etc.)?
- What prompted the child's statement?

Sometimes you have a feeling that a child is being abused but there are no visible marks and the child hasn't disclosed any concerns. As your relationship with the child allows, you can ask the child about your concern in a non-threatening, non-leading way. General questions could include:

- "Is there anything wrong?"
- "You look upset, is there something you want to talk about?"

Please remember, if in doubt about whether you have information that would constitute a report of abuse, just call us. We will attempt to gather as much information as possible to help make a decision that will assist in keeping children safe.

Please contact the hotline immediately when you believe a child has been abused or neglected.

02/05/10 For more information, please contact the Linn Benton Lincoln Child Welfare Hotline at: 541-757-5019 or visit our website at: www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/abuse/cps/report.shtml

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORTING FOR: LINN – BENTON - LINCOLN COUNTY

You may use this form to "document" the information needed to make a report of abuse and/or neglect but please remember that all reports of child abuse and/ or neglect must be cross reported directly to the Child Abuse hotline or Law Enforcement immediately and verbally to the child abuse hotline and or law enforcement.

Today's Date: _____ Time: _____

Reporters Name: _____ Phone: _____

Association: _____

Name of child: _____ DOB: _____

Child's Address: _____ Phone: _____

Sibling (s) Name: _____ DOB: _____

Name of parent/caretaker: _____

Parent/Caretaker's address: _____
(if different from child's address)

Type of abuse: _____

Does child have current injuries? ☐ - Yes ☐ - No

If yes, what is child's explanation of the injury? _____

Is there additional information / history / concerns you would like to add? _____

Have you spoken to anyone within the agency yet? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name: _____ When: _____

Screening Unit: **541-757-5019**

Toll Free: **866-303-4643**

Fax this report to: **541-757-5018**