

**ROGUE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GENERAL INFORMATION AND
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

Procedure: MANDATORY CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (AP-012)

Contact: Director of Risk Management, 541-956-7064

A. MANDATORY CHILD ABUSE REPORTING OBLIGATION

Effective January 1, 2013, Oregon has passed new legislation expanding its mandatory child abuse reporter list to include ALL employees of colleges and universities. Being a mandatory reporter is both a professional and personal obligation. It is important that all RCC employees understand their child abuse reporting obligations with the advent of this new law (HB 4016, ORS 419B.010).

B. CHILD ABUSE REPORTING OBLIGATION

Employees of RCC must immediately report to the Department of Human Services (DHS) or law enforcement if they have “reasonable cause to believe” that any child with whom they come into contact has suffered abuse, or that any person with whom they come into contact has abused a child. A child is any unmarried person under 18 years of age.

C. 24/7 PERSONAL OBLIGATION

It is important to understand that the child abuse reporting obligation is a personal obligation, and goes beyond the workplace. This means that RCC employees are mandatory child abuse reporters 24/7, and are required to report suspected child abuse anytime, anywhere. In other words, whether an employee learns of suspected abuse or a suspected abuser while at work, while coaching their child’s soccer team, or when shopping for groceries on the weekend, the reporting obligation is the same.

D. HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

The report should be made orally in the county where the reporter is located at the time of the suspicious contact. Jackson and Josephine counties’ abuse reporting line can be reached during normal business hours (Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.to 5 p.m. at 541-858-3197 or toll free at 866-480-2741. After normal business hours, the law enforcement agency closest to the location where the incident occurred should be contacted (see Item I. *Contact Information*). If the situation is an emergency or a child is at imminent risk, call 9-1-1 immediately.

E. WHAT THE REPORT SHOULD INCLUDE (IF KNOWN)

- Name and age of the child
- Nature and extent of abuse, including evidence of previous abuse
- Explanation given for the abuse
- Names and addresses of the child’s parents or others responsible for the child’s care
- Other helpful information to establish the cause of the abuse or the identity of the perpetrator

F. CONSEQUENCE FOR FAILURE TO REPORT

Failure to report is a Class A criminal violation of the law and carries a maximum penalty of \$2,000. Some mandatory reporters have also been sued for damages in civil court for failure to report.

G. WHAT IS CONSIDERED ABUSE

Below is a summary of what is generally considered abuse. The complete legal definition (ORS 491B.005) can be viewed at <http://www.oregonlegislature.gov>.

1. Physical injury, caused by other than accidental means, including an injury that appears to be at variance with the explanation given for the injury.
2. Mental injury, which includes only observable and substantial mental impairment caused by cruelty, with due regard to the culture of the child.
3. Sexual abuse, including rape, sodomy, unlawful sexual penetration or incest.
4. Exploitation, including prostitution or the sexual delinquency of a minor or any conduct that allows or encourages a child to perform sexual acts for observation, photographing, filming, etc.
5. Neglect, including failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care that is likely to endanger the child’s health or welfare.
6. Threatened harm, meaning subjecting a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child’s health or safety, including exposing a child to the manufacture of methamphetamine or to any controlled substance that subjects a child to a substantial risk of harm.
7. Buying or selling a person under 18 years of age.

“Abuse” does not include reasonable discipline unless discipline results in one of the above-described conditions.

H. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY FOR MAKING A GOOD FAITH REPORT

Anyone participating in good faith in making a child abuse report has immunity from any criminal or civil liability. This immunity is also in place with respect to participation in any subsequent judicial proceeding. To the extent possible, the individual’s identity as the reporter will be kept confidential (ORS 419B.025).

I. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

County	Office Hours	Daytime Phone Numbers	After Hours Phone Numbers
Jackson County DHS	Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	541-858-3197 (local) 866-840-2741 (toll free) (dedicated hotline)	911 or local law enforcement agency: Jackson County Sheriff: 541-774-6800 Ashland Police: 541-488-2211 Butte Falls Police 541-865-3200 Central Point Police 541-664-5578 Eagle Point Police 541-826-9171 Jacksonville Police 541-899-7100 Medford Police 541-770-4784

			Phoenix Police 541-535-1113 Rogue River Police 541-582-4931 Talent Police 541-535-1253
Josephine County DHS	Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	541-858-3197 (local) 866-840-2741 (toll free) (dedicated hotline)	911 or local law enforcement agency: Josephine County Sheriff: 541-474-5123 Grants Pass Police: 541-450-6260

Oregon State Police: 541-474-3174