

## Oregon Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting Community College Specific Examples

### Are Community College Employees Required To Report In These Cases?

- A housing resident is addressed for either alcohol or drugs. They have a scheduled conduct meeting and during the meeting it gets very emotional. The student appears to have multiple issues going on and is using alcohol/drugs as an outlet. During the meeting they share that a major issue they are dealing with is being out of the house and the sexual abuse they finally escaped.
  - **There is no statute of limitations on child abuse. We encourage these reports, even though the person alleging abuse is 18 or older, because the person they are alleging abused them may have contact with children. This contact may be as a parent, grandparent, uncle, teacher, coach, etc... If the person is under 18, you have just come into contact with a child alleging abuse.**
- College student (age 18 or older) confides to faculty member or staff about being sexually abused at home.
  - **Same as above.**
- Students who are under the age of 18 who are allowed to live in student housing and who are sexually active.
  - **Having sex is not a report of abuse in and of itself. However, if someone reports having sex within the context of a relationship with power and control, or describes coercion or force, that is different. Generally when there is a large age difference, power and control are factors. When in doubt, err on the side of child safety and make the report. Screeners are resources and can assist the reporter in determining if the information is a mandatory report or not.**
- How to handle under age 18 visitors who are not just on campus to visit but seeking to hook up with a college student?
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- Youth sports camps (with kids under age 18) situation where community college coach might see or have a suspicion about child abuse.
  - **Report.**

- College student self-discloses about something that happened to them before they turned 18. Student states they were sexually abused in high school.
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- Child as young as 7 years old is left unattended by the parent-student in a public area of the campus (while parent is being tested, being tutored, etc.). For example, the child is left in a student commons area, left to play games on a public-access computer station. Parent is not close by but, rather, on another floor of the building, sequestered in a testing room, etc... What is the minimum age where a child can be left unattended?
  - **The law states something to the effect that it is unlawful if a person having custody or control of a child leaves the child under 10 unattended in or at any place for such period of time as may be likely to endanger the health or welfare of said child. Of course, there are children older than 10 that, due to delays or disabilities, cannot be left unsupervised so it is not a hard and fast rule. In general, if a 7-year-old is left in a public place without supervision, this would be grounds for a report.**
  
- Child is brought on campus by a parent in places like the bookstore, student services etc. These are often harried and stressed young parents, many single parents. How do employees discern the difference between abuse and perhaps a not atypical interaction between a stressed out student parent who has been waiting in a long line for college services and a young child missing naptime?
  - **Watch the video and read the booklet “What You Can Do About Child Abuse” for more detailed information and examples of what constitutes a report of child abuse at [http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/mandatory\\_report.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/mandatory_report.shtml). Ultimately, if someone observes a situation where they believe a child is unsafe, they should report. Again, screeners are resources when someone is unsure, but always err on the side of child safety.**
  
- Faculty member becomes aware of sexual relationship between two students taking his community college course. He suspects at least one student might be under age 18.
  - **Having sex is not a report of abuse in and of itself. However, if someone reports having sex within the context of a relationship with power and control, or describes coercion or force, that is different. Generally, when there is a large age difference, power and control are factors. When in doubt, err on the side of child safety and make the report. Screeners are resources and can assist the reporter in determining if the information is a mandatory report or not.**

\* Answers provided by Oregon Department of Human Services.