

Children's Center

A place where healing begins

Definitions of Child Abuse in the State of Oregon

Physical Abuse: Any physical injury which has been caused by another that is not accidental; including broken bones, bruises, sprains, cuts, bites, internal injuries, auditory damage, or brain damage.

Sexual Abuse: Any act where a child is used for the sexual gratification of an adult; including voyeurism, exhibitionism, rape, sodomy, incest, fondling, the use of children for pornography, prostituting a child, and forcing, permitting or encouraging a child to watch pornography.

Neglect: The negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, which is caused by failure to protect or care for a child; including failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and emotional support for a child. Neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment.

Abandonment and Mental Injury: Abandonment is parental behavior showing intent to permanently give up all rights and claims to a child. Mental injury/psychological maltreatment is the result of unusually cruel treatment of a child to the extent that the child cannot function at their developmental level nor have normal emotions for their level of development.

Threat of Harm: Includes all activities, conditions, and persons, which place a child at substantial risk of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or mental injury. The presence of domestic violence is a risk for children.

Unlawful exposure to a controlled substance, as defined in ORS 475.005, that subjects a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child's health or safety.

Permitting a person under 18 years of age to enter or remain in or upon premises where methamphetamines are being manufactured.

Buying or Selling a Child: Buying, selling, or trading for legal or physical custody of a child. It does not apply to legitimate adoptions or domestic relations planning.

Fatality: When suspected abuse or neglect is a factor in a child victim's death, a report must be made. The medical examiner and law enforcement conduct a criminal investigation; the Department of Human Services provides necessary protective services to the other children in the child victim's family. The most frequent cause of a child abuse death is a head injury from shaking or battering. Most fatally abused children are under five years of age.