

Definitions of Child Abuse in the State of Oregon

Physical Abuse - Any physical injury, which has been caused by another that is not accidental. Includes 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. Includes 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. Includes failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and emotional support for a child.

Mental Injury - The 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.

Child Selling - Buying 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's death, a report must be made. The medical examiner and law enforcement conduct a criminal investigation, and the Department of Human Services provides necessary protective services to the other children in the child'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.

Questions? Call Liberty House at 503-540-0288.