

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 749

Ordered by the Senate April 9
Including Senate Amendments dated April 9

Sponsored by Senator GELSER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Requires residential care referral agent to be registered with Department of Human Services.
Imposes certain requirements on residential care referral agents.
Makes residential care referral agent mandatory reporter of child abuse.
[Makes violation of certain provisions unfair trade practice.]
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to residential care referrals; creating new provisions; amending ORS 419B.005; and declar-
3 ing an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. As used in sections 1 to 3 of this 2021 Act:**

6 (1) **"Client"** means a parent or guardian or other person seeking a referral or recom-
7 mendation for programs for a person under the age of 18 who is experiencing behavioral,
8 emotional, mental health, substance use, delinquency or disability-related challenges.

9 (2) **"Placement information"** means any information a person collects from a client about
10 the client or the subject of placement, including but not limited to name, electronic mail
11 address, telephone number, zip code, medical history, information about necessary services
12 or the reasons for seeking residential care.

13 (3)(a) **"Referral agent"** means a person that provides residential care referrals.

14 (b) **"Referral agent"** does not include:

15 (A) A residential care program or its employees.

16 (B) A public body as defined in ORS 174.109.

17 (C) A physician licensed under ORS chapter 677 or a nurse practitioner licensed under
18 ORS 678.375 to 678.390 if the subject of placement is a patient of the physician or nurse
19 practitioner and the physician or nurse practitioner has deemed the placement to be med-
20 ically necessary.

21 (4)(a) **"Residential care program"** means a residential program or facility that meets the
22 criteria of a child-caring agency as defined in ORS 418.205, regardless of whether the pro-
23 gram is located in Oregon or out of Oregon.

24 (b) **"Residential care program"** does not include:

25 (A) A hospital as defined in ORS 442.015 or a rural hospital as defined in ORS 442.470.

26 (B) An adoption agency.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (C) An academic boarding school that provides educational services and care to children
2 24 hours a day and does not offer or arrange specialized treatment or therapeutic services
3 to students with disabilities or to students with social, emotional or behavioral problems.

4 (5) "Residential care referral" means a referral to a residential care program in con-
5 nection with which the referral agent receives compensation from any source when:

6 (a) The client or the subject of placement resides in this state;

7 (b) The referral agent resides in or has a primary place of business in this state; or

8 (c) The program to which the referral is made is located in this state.

9 (6) "Subject of placement" means the individual to be placed with a residential care pro-
10 gram through a residential care referral.

11 **SECTION 2.** (1) A referral agent shall provide a client with a disclosure at the same time
12 the client is offered information, referral or recommendation regarding a residential care
13 program. The written disclosure must be conspicuous, provided in clear language and in-
14 clude:

15 (a) A description of the residential care referral to be provided by the referral agent,
16 including:

17 (A) The names of all agencies that license the program and the type of licenses the pro-
18 gram currently holds.

19 (B) All licensing actions taken against the program or its parent company in the prior
20 24 months, based on direct inquiry with each agency that licenses the program.

21 (C) The number of substantiated allegations of abuse, deaths and or serious injuries at
22 the program in the prior 24 months, based on direct inquiry with each agency that licenses
23 the program or investigates abuse at the program.

24 (D) The program's restraint, seclusion and behavioral management policy.

25 (E) Names, titles and educational background of the leadership team of the program.

26 (F) Day and nighttime staff to student ratio of the program.

27 (G) Whether the program serves youth offenders.

28 (H) Names, titles and educational background of all health care providers who are em-
29 ployees of the program.

30 (I) If the program advertises treatment services, whether the program is regulated as a
31 behavioral health center by its state's health authority.

32 (b) A description of the relationship between the referral agent and the program the
33 agent is making referral to, including:

34 (A) A statement of whether the referral agent provides residential care referrals only to
35 programs with which the agent has an existing contract.

36 (B) A disclosure of all sources of fees, compensation or consideration the referral agent
37 may receive in exchange for making the residential care referral.

38 (c) A description of the referral agent's qualifications and business practices, including:

39 (A) The referral agent's contact information, including address and telephone number.

40 (B) The referral agent's educational background and qualifications.

41 (C) The referral agent's privacy policy.

42 (2) A referral agent may not:

43 (a) Refer a client to a residential care program that is not licensed by the agency re-
44 sponsible for licensing child-caring agencies in the state where the program is located.

45 (b) Refer a client to a residential care program that the agent has not personally toured

1 within the prior 24 months.

2 (c) Refer a client to a residential care program that has had a restriction, revocation or
3 suspension of its license by any licensing entity within the prior 12 months.

4 (d) Refer a client to an organization or company that offers secure transportation ser-
5 vices that is not approved by the state Department of Human Services to accept referrals,
6 under rules adopted by the department.

7 (e) Share a client's placement information with or sell a client's placement information
8 to a program or marketing affiliate without obtaining affirmative consent from the client for
9 each instance of sharing or selling the information.

10 (f) Refer a client to a residential care program in which the referral agent or an imme-
11 diate family member of the referral agent has an ownership interest.

12 (g) Refer a client to a residential care program that provides any compensation, payment
13 or consideration to the referral agent in exchange for the referral.

14 (h) Contact a client who has requested in writing that the referral agent stop contacting
15 the client.

16 (3) For each residential care program to which the referral agent makes residential care
17 referrals, a referral agent shall provide to a client via a website or written notice:

18 (a) A link to the state agency website listing licensing or abuse complaints concerning
19 the program.

20 (b) Contact information to facilitate reporting of abuse or neglect or licensing violations
21 in the state in which the program is located.

22 (c) Contact information for the law enforcement agency responsible for coverage of the
23 community in which the program is located.

24 (4)(a) A referral agent must include in any contract with a residential care program
25 provisions prohibiting the referral agent from collecting compensation for a referral to a
26 program when the program is a subsequent program as described in this subsection. A pro-
27 gram is a subsequent program if:

28 (A) The subject of placement enters a residential care program to which the subject of
29 placement is referred by a first referral agent, but subsequently leaves that program; and

30 (B) A new referral agent refers the subject of placement to the subsequent program.

31 (b) When a residential care referral is made to a subsequent program for a subject of
32 placement by a new referral agent as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, the new
33 referral agent must present evidence to the subsequent program that the first referral agent
34 is not entitled to compensation for the referral.

35 (5) A client may bring a cause of action for a violation of this section and may recover
36 actual damages or \$750, whichever is greater. The court may award reasonable attorney fees
37 to the prevailing party in an action under this subsection.

38 **SECTION 3.** (1) A person may not provide a residential care referral unless the person
39 is registered with the Department of Human Services under this section.

40 (2) The department shall issue a registration to provide residential care referrals to an
41 applicant that meets requirements established by the department by rule and pays a \$750 fee.

42 (3) A registration issued under this section must be renewed every two years. The de-
43 partment shall set the renewal fee by rule, but the renewal fee may not exceed \$750.

44 (4) The department shall require an applicant to:

45 (a) Identify an individual responsible for the application;

1 **(b) Demonstrate that the applicant meets the requirements of section 2 of this 2021 Act;**

2 **(c) Demonstrate that the applicant maintains at least \$1 million in general liability in-**
3 **surance; and**

4 **(d) Perform background checks on referral agents who have direct contact with clients,**
5 **as defined by rule of the department.**

6 **(5) The department may adopt rules as necessary to administer sections 1 to 3 of this**
7 **2021 Act.**

8 **(6) The department may impose a civil penalty on a person for violation of sections 1 to**
9 **3 of this 2021 Act or violation of rules adopted under sections 1 to 3 of this 2021 Act.**

10 **SECTION 4.** ORS 419B.005 is amended to read:

11 419B.005. As used in ORS 419B.005 to 419B.050, unless the context requires otherwise:

12 (1)(a) "Abuse" means:

13 (A) Any assault, as defined in ORS chapter 163, of a child and any physical injury to a child
14 which has been caused by other than accidental means, including any injury which appears to be
15 at variance with the explanation given of the injury.

16 (B) Any mental injury to a child, which shall include only observable and substantial impairment
17 of the child's mental or psychological ability to function caused by cruelty to the child, with due
18 regard to the culture of the child.

19 (C) Rape of a child, which includes but is not limited to rape, sodomy, unlawful sexual pene-
20 tration and incest, as those acts are described in ORS chapter 163.

21 (D) Sexual abuse, as described in ORS chapter 163.

22 (E) Sexual exploitation, including but not limited to:

23 (i) Contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor, as defined in ORS chapter 163, and any
24 other conduct which allows, employs, authorizes, permits, induces or encourages a child to engage
25 in the performing for people to observe or the photographing, filming, tape recording or other ex-
26 hibition which, in whole or in part, depicts sexual conduct or contact, as defined in ORS 167.002 or
27 described in ORS 163.665 and 163.670, sexual abuse involving a child or rape of a child, but not in-
28 cluding any conduct which is part of any investigation conducted pursuant to ORS 419B.020 or
29 which is designed to serve educational or other legitimate purposes; and

30 (ii) Allowing, permitting, encouraging or hiring a child to engage in prostitution as described in
31 ORS 167.007 or a commercial sex act as defined in ORS 163.266, to purchase sex with a minor as
32 described in ORS 163.413 or to engage in commercial sexual solicitation as described in ORS 167.008.

33 (F) Negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including but not limited to the failure to
34 provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care that is likely to endanger the health or
35 welfare of the child.

36 (G) Threatened harm to a child, which means subjecting a child to a substantial risk of harm
37 to the child's health or welfare.

38 (H) Buying or selling a person under 18 years of age as described in ORS 163.537.

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

41 (J) Unlawful exposure to a controlled substance, as defined in ORS 475.005, or to the unlawful
42 manufacturing of a cannabinoid extract, as defined in ORS 475B.015, that subjects a child to a sub-
43 stantial risk of harm to the child's health or safety.

44 (b) "Abuse" does not include reasonable discipline unless the discipline results in one of the
45 conditions described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

- 1 (2) "Child" means an unmarried person who:
2 (a) Is under 18 years of age; or
3 (b) Is under 21 years of age and residing in or receiving care or services at a child-caring
4 agency as that term is defined in ORS 418.205.
- 5 (3) "Higher education institution" means:
6 (a) A community college as defined in ORS 341.005;
7 (b) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;
8 (c) The Oregon Health and Science University; and
9 (d) A private institution of higher education located in Oregon.
- 10 (4)(a) "Investigation" means a detailed inquiry into or assessment of the safety of a child alleged
11 to have experienced abuse.
12 (b) "Investigation" does not include screening activities conducted upon the receipt of a report.
- 13 (5) "Law enforcement agency" means:
14 (a) A city or municipal police department.
15 (b) A county sheriff's office.
16 (c) The Oregon State Police.
17 (d) A police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125.
18 (e) A county juvenile department.
- 19 (6) "Public or private official" means:
20 (a) Physician or physician assistant licensed under ORS chapter 677 or naturopathic physician,
21 including any intern or resident.
22 (b) Dentist.
23 (c) School employee, including an employee of a higher education institution.
24 (d) Licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse's aide, home health aide
25 or employee of an in-home health service.
26 (e) Employee of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Early Learning
27 Division, Department of Education, Youth Development Division, Office of Child Care, the Oregon
28 Youth Authority, a local health department, a community mental health program, a community de-
29 velopmental disabilities program, a county juvenile department, a child-caring agency as that term
30 is defined in ORS 418.205 or an alcohol and drug treatment program.
- 31 (f) Peace officer.
32 (g) Psychologist.
33 (h) Member of the clergy.
34 (i) Regulated social worker.
35 (j) Optometrist.
36 (k) Chiropractor.
37 (L) Certified provider of foster care, or an employee thereof.
38 (m) Attorney.
39 (n) Licensed professional counselor.
40 (o) Licensed marriage and family therapist.
41 (p) Firefighter or emergency medical services provider.
42 (q) A court appointed special advocate, as defined in ORS 419A.004.
43 (r) A child care provider registered or certified under ORS 329A.030 and 329A.250 to 329A.450.
44 (s) Member of the Legislative Assembly.
45 (t) Physical, speech or occupational therapist.

- 1 (u) Audiologist.
- 2 (v) Speech-language pathologist.
- 3 (w) Employee of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission directly involved in investi-
4 gations or discipline by the commission.
- 5 (x) Pharmacist.
- 6 (y) An operator of a preschool recorded program under ORS 329A.255.
- 7 (z) An operator of a school-age recorded program under ORS 329A.257.
- 8 (aa) Employee of a private agency or organization facilitating the provision of respite services,
9 as defined in ORS 418.205, for parents pursuant to a properly executed power of attorney under ORS
10 109.056.
- 11 (bb) Employee of a public or private organization providing child-related services or activities:
12 (A) Including but not limited to youth groups or centers, scout groups or camps, summer or day
13 camps, survival camps or groups, centers or camps that are operated under the guidance, super-
14 vision or auspices of religious, public or private educational systems or community service organ-
15 izations; and
16 (B) Excluding community-based, nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to provide
17 confidential, direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human traf-
18 ficking.
- 19 (cc) A coach, assistant coach or trainer of an amateur, semiprofessional or professional athlete,
20 if compensated and if the athlete is a child.
- 21 (dd) Personal support worker, as defined in ORS 410.600.
- 22 (ee) Home care worker, as defined in ORS 410.600.
- 23 (ff) Animal control officer, as defined in ORS 609.500.
- 24 (gg) Member of a school district board or public charter school governing body.
- 25 (hh) An individual who is paid by a public body, in accordance with ORS 430.215, to provide a
26 service identified in an individualized written service plan of a child with a developmental disability.
- 27 **(ii) Referral agent, as defined in section 1 of this 2021 Act.**
- 28 **SECTION 5. (1) Sections 1 to 3 of this 2021 Act and the amendments to ORS 419B.005 by**
29 **section 4 of this 2021 Act become operative on January 1, 2022.**
- 30 **(2) The Department of Human Services may take any action before the operative date**
31 **specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to enable the department, on and**
32 **after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, to exercise all of the du-**
33 **ties, functions and powers conferred on the department by sections 1 to 3 of this 2021 Act**
34 **and the amendments to ORS 419B.005 by section 4 of this 2021 Act.**
- 35 **SECTION 6. Section 2 of this 2021 Act applies only to contracts entered into between a**
36 **referral agent and another party on or after January 1, 2022.**
- 37 **SECTION 7. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
38 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect**
39 **on its passage.**

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