

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Modifies definition of “abuse” for purposes of child abuse to include verbal abuse. Defines “verbal abuse.”

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to verbal abuse of children; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 419B.005.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 419B.005, as amended by section 8, chapter 90, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended to read:

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

(1)(a) “Abuse” means:

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

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

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

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

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

2 (i) Contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor, as defined in ORS
3 chapter 163, and any other conduct which allows, employs, authorizes, per-
4 mits, induces or encourages a child to engage in the performing for people
5 to observe or the photographing, filming, tape recording or other exhibition
6 which, in whole or in part, depicts sexual conduct or contact, as defined in
7 ORS 167.002 or described in ORS 163.665 and 163.670, sexual abuse involving
8 a child or rape of a child, but not including any conduct which is part of
9 any investigation conducted pursuant to ORS 419B.020 or which is designed
10 to serve educational or other legitimate purposes; and

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

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

18 *[(G) Threatened harm to a child, which means subjecting a child to a
19 substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare.]*

20 *[(H)]* (G) Buying or selling a person under 18 years of age as described
21 in ORS 163.537.

22 *[(I)]* (H) Permitting a person under 18 years of age to enter or remain in
23 or upon premises where methamphetamines are being manufactured.

24 *[(J)]* (I) Unlawful exposure to a controlled substance, as defined in ORS
25 475.005, or to the unlawful manufacturing of a cannabinoid extract, as de-
26 fined in ORS 475C.009, that subjects a child to a substantial risk of harm to
27 the child's health or safety.

28 **(J) Verbal abuse.**

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

31 (2) "Child" means an unmarried person who:

1 (a) Is under 18 years of age; or

2 (b) Is under 21 years of age and residing in or receiving care or services
3 at a child-caring agency as that term is defined in ORS 418.205.

4 (3) “Higher education institution” means:

5 (a) A community college as defined in ORS 341.005;

6 (b) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;

7 (c) The Oregon Health and Science University; and

8 (d) A private institution of higher education located in Oregon.

9 (4)(a) “Investigation” means a detailed inquiry into or assessment of the
10 safety of a child alleged to have experienced abuse.

11 (b) “Investigation” does not include screening activities conducted upon
12 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
18 353.125.

19 (e) A county juvenile department.

20 (6) “Public or private official” means:

21 (a) Physician or physician assistant licensed under ORS chapter 677 or
22 naturopathic physician, including any intern or resident.

23 (b) Dentist.

24 (c) School employee, including an employee of a higher education insti-
25 tution.

26 (d) Licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse’s
27 aide, home health aide or employee of an in-home health service.

28 (e) Employee of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Au-
29 thority, Early Learning Division, Department of Education, Youth Develop-
30 ment Division, Office of Child Care, the Oregon Youth Authority, a local
31 health department, a community mental health program, a community de-

1 velopmental disabilities program, a county juvenile department, a child-
2 caring agency as that term is defined in ORS 418.205 or an alcohol and drug
3 treatment program.

4 (f) Peace officer.

5 (g) Psychologist.

6 (h) Member of the clergy.

7 (i) Regulated social worker.

8 (j) Optometrist.

9 (k) Chiropractor.

10 (L) Certified provider of foster care, or an employee thereof.

11 (m) Attorney.

12 (n) Licensed professional counselor.

13 (o) Licensed marriage and family therapist.

14 (p) Firefighter or emergency medical services provider.

15 (q) A court appointed special advocate, as defined in ORS 419A.004.

16 (r) A child care provider registered or certified under ORS 329A.030 and
17 329A.250 to 329A.450.

18 (s) An elected official of a branch of government of this state or a state
19 agency, board, commission or department of a branch of government of this
20 state or of a city, county or other political subdivision in this state.

21 (t) Physical, speech or occupational therapist.

22 (u) Audiologist.

23 (v) Speech-language pathologist.

24 (w) Employee of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission directly
25 involved in investigations or discipline by the commission.

26 (x) Pharmacist.

27 (y) An operator of a preschool recorded program under ORS 329A.255.

28 (z) An operator of a school-age recorded program under ORS 329A.255.

29 (aa) Employee of a private agency or organization facilitating the pro-
30 vision of respite services, as defined in ORS 418.205, for parents pursuant to
31 a properly executed power of attorney under ORS 109.056.

1 (bb) An employee of a public or private organization providing child-
2 related services or activities:

3 (A) Including but not limited to an employee of a:

4 (i) Youth group or center;

5 (ii) Scout group or camp;

6 (iii) Summer or day camp;

7 (iv) Survival camp; or

8 (v) Group, center or camp that is operated under the guidance, super-
9 vision or auspices of a religious, public or private educational system or a
10 community service organization; and

11 (B) Excluding an employee of a qualified victim services program as de-
12 fined in ORS 147.600 that provides confidential, direct services to victims of
13 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking.

14 (cc) A coach, assistant coach or trainer of an amateur, semiprofessional
15 or professional athlete, if compensated and if the athlete is a child.

16 (dd) Personal support worker, as defined in ORS 410.600.

17 (ee) Home care worker, as defined in ORS 410.600.

18 (ff) Animal control officer, as defined in ORS 609.500.

19 (gg) Member of a school district board, an education service district board
20 or a public charter school governing body.

21 (hh) An individual who is paid by a public body, in accordance with ORS
22 430.215, to provide a service identified in an individualized written service
23 plan of a child with a developmental disability.

24 (ii) Referral agent, as defined in ORS 418.351.

25 **(7) "Verbal abuse" means to threaten significant physical or emo-**
26 **tional harm to a child through the use of:**

27 **(a) Derogatory or inappropriate names, insults, verbal assaults,**
28 **profanity or ridicule; or**

29 **(b) Harassment, coercion, threats, intimidation, humiliation, men-**
30 **tal cruelty or inappropriate sexual comments.**

31 **SECTION 2.** ORS 419B.005, as amended by section 58, chapter 631,

1 Oregon Laws 2021, section 16, chapter 27, Oregon Laws 2022, and section 7,
2 chapter 90, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended to read:

3 419B.005. As used in ORS 419B.005 to 419B.050, unless the context re-
4 quires otherwise:

5 (1)(a) “Abuse” means:

6 (A) Any assault, as defined in ORS chapter 163, of a child and any phys-
7 ical injury to a child which has been caused by other than accidental means,
8 including any injury which appears to be at variance with the explanation
9 given of the injury.

10 (B) Any mental injury to a child, which shall include only observable and
11 substantial impairment of the child’s mental or psychological ability to
12 function caused by cruelty to the child, with due regard to the culture of the
13 child.

14 (C) Rape of a child, which includes but is not limited to rape, sodomy,
15 unlawful sexual penetration and incest, as those acts are described in ORS
16 chapter 163.

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

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

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

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

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

4 [(G) *Threatened harm to a child, which means subjecting a child to a*
5 *substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare.*]

6 [(H)] (G) Buying or selling a person under 18 years of age as described
7 in ORS 163.537.

8 [(I)] (H) Permitting a person under 18 years of age to enter or remain in
9 or upon premises where methamphetamines are being manufactured.

10 [(J)] (I) Unlawful exposure to a controlled substance, as defined in ORS
11 475.005, or to the unlawful manufacturing of a cannabinoid extract, as de-
12 fined in ORS 475C.009, that subjects a child to a substantial risk of harm to
13 the child's health or safety.

14 (J) **Verbal abuse.**

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

17 (2) "Child" means an unmarried person who:

18 (a) Is under 18 years of age; or

19 (b) Is under 21 years of age and residing in or receiving care or services
20 at a child-caring agency as that term is defined in ORS 418.205.

21 (3) "Higher education institution" means:

22 (a) A community college as defined in ORS 341.005;

23 (b) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;

24 (c) The Oregon Health and Science University; and

25 (d) A private institution of higher education located in Oregon.

26 (4)(a) "Investigation" means a detailed inquiry into or assessment of the
27 safety of a child alleged to have experienced abuse.

28 (b) "Investigation" does not include screening activities conducted upon
29 the receipt of a report.

30 (5) "Law enforcement agency" means:

31 (a) A city or municipal police department.

- 1 (b) A county sheriff's office.
- 2 (c) The Oregon State Police.
- 3 (d) A police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or
4 353.125.
- 5 (e) A county juvenile department.
- 6 (6) "Public or private official" means:
- 7 (a) Physician or physician assistant licensed under ORS chapter 677 or
8 naturopathic physician, including any intern or resident.
- 9 (b) Dentist.
- 10 (c) School employee, including an employee of a higher education insti-
11 tution.
- 12 (d) Licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse's
13 aide, home health aide or employee of an in-home health service.
- 14 (e) Employee of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Au-
15 thority, Department of Early Learning and Care, Department of Education,
16 Youth Development Division, Office of Child Care, the Oregon Youth Au-
17 thority, a local health department, a community mental health program, a
18 community developmental disabilities program, a county juvenile department,
19 a child-caring agency as that term is defined in ORS 418.205 or an alcohol
20 and drug treatment program.
- 21 (f) Peace officer.
- 22 (g) Psychologist.
- 23 (h) Member of the clergy.
- 24 (i) Regulated social worker.
- 25 (j) Optometrist.
- 26 (k) Chiropractor.
- 27 (L) Certified provider of foster care, or an employee thereof.
- 28 (m) Attorney.
- 29 (n) Licensed professional counselor.
- 30 (o) Licensed marriage and family therapist.
- 31 (p) Firefighter or emergency medical services provider.

- 1 (q) A court appointed special advocate, as defined in ORS 419A.004.
- 2 (r) A child care provider registered or certified under ORS 329A.250 to
3 329A.450.
- 4 (s) An elected official of a branch of government of this state or a state
5 agency, board, commission or department of a branch of government of this
6 state or of a city, county or other political subdivision in this state.
- 7 (t) Physical, speech or occupational therapist.
- 8 (u) Audiologist.
- 9 (v) Speech-language pathologist.
- 10 (w) Employee of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission directly
11 involved in investigations or discipline by the commission.
- 12 (x) Pharmacist.
- 13 (y) An operator of a preschool recorded program under ORS 329A.255.
- 14 (z) An operator of a school-age recorded program under ORS 329A.255.
- 15 (aa) Employee of a private agency or organization facilitating the pro-
16 vision of respite services, as defined in ORS 418.205, for parents pursuant to
17 a properly executed power of attorney under ORS 109.056.
- 18 (bb) An employee of a public or private organization providing child-
19 related services or activities:
- 20 (A) Including but not limited to an employee of a:
- 21 (i) Youth group or center;
- 22 (ii) Scout group or camp;
- 23 (iii) Summer or day camp;
- 24 (iv) Survival camp; or
- 25 (v) Group, center or camp that is operated under the guidance, super-
26 vision or auspices of a religious, public or private educational system or a
27 community service organization; and
- 28 (B) Excluding an employee of a qualified victim services program as de-
29 fined in ORS 147.600 that provides confidential, direct services to victims of
30 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking.
- 31 (cc) A coach, assistant coach or trainer of an amateur, semiprofessional

1 or professional athlete, if compensated and if the athlete is a child.

2 (dd) Personal support worker, as defined in ORS 410.600.

3 (ee) Home care worker, as defined in ORS 410.600.

4 (ff) Animal control officer, as defined in ORS 609.500.

5 (gg) Member of a school district board, an education service district board
6 or a public charter school governing body.

7 (hh) An individual who is paid by a public body, in accordance with ORS
8 430.215, to provide a service identified in an individualized written service
9 plan of a child with a developmental disability.

10 (ii) Referral agent, as defined in ORS 418.351.

11 **(7) “Verbal abuse” means to threaten significant physical or emo-**
12 **tional harm to a child through the use of:**

13 **(a) Derogatory or inappropriate names, insults, verbal assaults,**
14 **profanity or ridicule; or**

15 **(b) Harassment, coercion, threats, intimidation, humiliation, men-**
16 **tal cruelty or inappropriate sexual comments.**

17 **SECTION 3. The amendments to ORS 419B.005 by sections 1 and 2**
18 **of this 2023 Act apply to acts committed on or after the effective date**
19 **of this 2023 Act.**

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