



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association  
*Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments*  
[www.ojdda.org](http://www.ojdda.org)

## **The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association Opposes SB 915**

SB 915 directs the Office of Training Investigations and Safety (OTIS) to investigate all allegations occurring in correctional settings, including juvenile detention centers or youth correctional facilities. This is a significant policy shift. Correctional settings are substantially different than other settings currently being investigated by the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), Child Welfare and OTIS.

- Currently any reports of abuse are reported to a Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) to conduct a criminal investigation.
- Each of the nine county juvenile detention centers have a designated LEA which conducts investigations.
- OYA youth correctional facilities designate the Oregon State Police as the LEA responsible for investigations.

Last Legislative Session the Legislature passed HB 4086. The bill directed ODHS to commission a study on the scope of child abuse investigations in this state. It required an independent facilitator to lead the study and required an advisory committee be appointed. The composition of the advisory committee includes representatives from all agencies, organizations and individuals who are affected by current investigations and processes. The advisory group has been meeting twice a month for three hours to identify appropriate oversight for investigations in various settings, including juvenile justice facilities. The facilitator of the jurisdictional workgroup is to present a final report and recommendations to the Legislature by September 15, 2025.

OJDDA believes that the work of the current advisory committee is a collaborative process that will ensure that the State of Oregon has a child abuse reporting and response system that is effective, comprehensive and easy to understand in order to keep our children safe.

The 2023 Legislature passed a bill that established the Juvenile Justice Policy Commission. OJDDA believes that this could also be an appropriate avenue to review the issue of investigations in correctional settings once the HB 4086 workgroup concludes their work.

### **OJDDA's Request**

OJDDA requests that any changes in the investigative process in juvenile detention or youth correctional settings wait until the legislatively sanctioned advisory group is able to complete their work and provide the recommendations to the Legislature in September of 2025.

### **For Further Information Contact:**

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