

CFAES OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

OSU Activities & Programs with Minors Child Abuse / Neglect Recognition and Reporting



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Objectives

- Familiarize you with OSU's Protection of Minors Policy
- Standards of Behavior
- Working With Youth Virtually
- Define child abuse / neglect
- Identify four main types of child maltreatment
- Recognize indicators of abuse / neglect
- Learn OSU's reporting requirements
- Know how to report and what information you need
- Become aware of what happens after a report is made

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Activities and Programs with Minor Participants

Interim University Policy

Applies to: Faculty, staff, appointees, students, student employees, graduate associates, and volunteers working in activities and programs with minors in the course of their university duties.

Responsible Office: Office of Institutional Equity

POLICY
Issued: 01/01/2013
Interim Revised: 05/12/2020

The university is committed to providing the best experience possible for minors. Faculty, staff, appointees, students, student employees, graduate associates, and volunteers are therefore expected to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct when interacting with minors. This policy establishes requirements for those in the university community who work in activities and programs with minors, with the goal of safeguarding the wellbeing of minors.

Ohio State expects parents or guardians to provide supervision over minors on university property unless they are involved in an activity or program with minors.

In addition to the requirements of this policy, faculty, staff, appointees, students, student employees, graduate associates, and volunteers must adhere to obligations that may be imposed by applicable law, including but not limited to Ohio Revised Code Sections 2151.421 and 2021.22.

Purpose of the Policy
To promote the safety and welfare of minors who participate in activities and programs with minors and are entrusted to the university's care. To support the protection of minors, this policy outlines what is required of faculty, staff, appointees,

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Applies to

- Faculty
- Staff
- Appointees
- Students and student employees, including graduate associates
- Volunteers



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4-H Volunteer Requirements

- Program registration (4-HOnline)
- Signed standards of behavior annually
- Criminal history fingerprint background checks every 4 years
- Annual training
- Accountability

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Why Annual Training?

Boy Scouts reach \$850 million settlement with tens of thousands of sexual abuse victims
July 1, 2021

The settlement is the largest in a child sexual abuse case in United States history.



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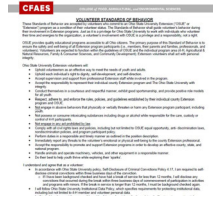


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Standards of Behavior

- Signed annually
- Sets expectations for positive behavior
- Prohibits:
 - illegal, harassing, abusive, bullying behaviors
 - intentionally placing yourself in a 1-on-1 situation with a minor

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Standards of Behavior Spotlight

As of 2021:

- Ohio State University Extension volunteers will *not possess or consume intoxicating substances including drugs or alcohol while responsible for the care, custody or control of 4-H participants.*
- Has always been prohibited in the 4-H policies, now stated directly in the Standards of Behavior.



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Standards of Behavior Spotlight

Important to Remember

- I will uphold and support the responsible and lawful use of social media. In doing so, I will not create or post social media content that is abusive, threatening, defamatory, obscene, harassing, or creates a hostile environment.



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Working with Youth Virtually

- Report Suspected Abuse or Neglect**
 - Just like in-person activities you must report if you suspect.
 - Follow guidelines for reporting.
- Rule of 3 Still Applies**
 - Even virtually there should never be one on one interaction with a volunteer and minor.
 - Use groups of 3 or more.
- Need Consent for Recording or Photographing**
 - Never record or photograph with out others knowing.
 - You should have consent from parents for minors.

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Working with Youth Virtually

- Use Recommended Platforms**
 - Utilize platforms recommended by OSU
 - View Resource Sheet *Communicating Online with Your Club.*
- Background, Appearance and Clothing**
 - Location: lightening, sound, disruptions
 - Appearance & Clothing: appropriate for working with youth
- Be Aware of Participants' Backgrounds and Camera & Audio Feed.**
 - Have one of more volunteers to monitor
 - Be prepared to shutoff camera and audio if inappropriate

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Working with Youth Virtually

- Disable Peer to Peer Messaging and File Transfers**
 - Disable when possible and they can't be monitored by approved volunteers.
 - Eliminates cyberbullying, harassment, and menacing behavior.
- Waiting Rooms can be a Great Safety Feature.**
 - Prevents "zoom bombing"
 - Control interactions and who attends
- Wearing of Headphone is Encouraged**
 - For privacy especially in sensitive situations

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OSU's Definition

- When a child has suffered or faces a substantial threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, injury, disability or condition that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect. This also includes any conduct of a sexual nature that may be harmful to a minor's mental, emotional, or physical welfare.



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4 Types of Child Maltreatment

- Neglect
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse



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Neglect

- The failure of an adult to provide for a child's basic, educational, or medical needs
 - Food, shelter, clothing
 - Supervision – left alone
 - Self care – personal hygiene
 - Education
 - Medical/Dental
 - Abandonment



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Emotional Abuse

- A pattern of harmful interactions between an adult and child.
 - Criticizing
 - Belittling
 - Rejecting
- Chronic acts that interfere with psychological and/or social development.



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Sexual Abuse

- When a person uses power and directly involves the child in any sexual act, involves the child in pornography, or forces the child to witness sexual acts.
 - Any sexual activity with or inflicted on a child
 - The act may be for the sexual gratification of the perpetrator or a third party

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Sexual Abuse

***NEVER** is it ok for a person in a position of power to have a romantic or sexual relationship of any nature with a minor, regardless of the age of consent in Ohio being 16.*

Who are positions of authority? 4-H advisors, camp counselors/deans, 4-H project judges, trainers, fair board directors, teachers, administrators, coaches, or anyone in a position of authority over the minor (defined as under age 18 in Ohio)

- The person in authority may be guilty of Sexual Battery
 - ORC 2907.03(A)(8),(9), and (13).

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Physical Abuse

- Any physical injury inflicted other than by accidental means



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Abuse vs. Accident

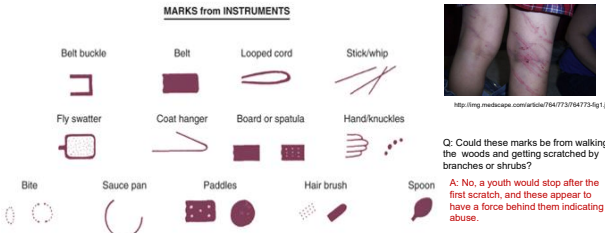
- Severity / Nature of Injury
 - Where is the injury?
 - What is the size and shape of the injury?
 - Does the story match the injury?
 - Is the injury consistent with child's abilities?
- How many injuries does the child have?
- How often is the child injured?

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MARKS from INSTRUMENTS



Q: Could these marks be from walking in the woods and getting scratched by branches or shrubs?
A: No, a youth would stop after the first scratch, and these appear to have a force behind them indicating abuse.

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Abuse vs. Accident

- Opinions are subjective by those making decisions about the alleged abuse i.e. law enforcement, social worker, prosecutor, judge etc. . They all have different viewpoints.
- Corporal Punishment is legal in Ohio
- Abuse = non-accidental injury

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Indicators of Child Abuse or Neglect

- Bruises, welts, suspicious marks
- Suspicious burns / burn marks
- Excessive sunburn, illness, bites, etc.
- Child's behavior
- In pain
- Excessive hunger (hoarding food),
- Excessive tiredness, tardiness
- Clothing appropriateness
- For more indicators visit;
 - <http://familysafetvandthealing.org/how-to-help/an-abused-or-neglected-child-teen/>

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Indicators of Child Abuse or Neglect

Parents may

- appear disinterested
- fail to return calls/make appointments
- become angry and threatening/defensive
- refuse to discuss child's problem
- refer to child as different, bad, rotten, etc.
- be overly protective

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If a Child Confides Do's and Don'ts

- Remain calm
- Never ask leading questions
- Do not investigate
- Don't promise you won't tell
- Take action
- Maintain confidentiality

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Reporting – Required to Report

- Immediately report all incidents


ONE Call:
If imminent danger or life-threatening: the call made is to 911

OR

If it is non-life threatening:
The call is made to the Children Services
24-hour hotline 855-642-4453 (855-OH-CHILD)

Note the names of who you talk to as you'll need that to complete the report

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Required to Report

- Within 1 business day, file a report
 - Complete the Child Abuse, Sexual Abuse, or Neglect Incident Report form be found at: <https://hr.osu.edu/services/minors-on-campus/>
 - **volunteers should contact a county professional to complete & submit the form**

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Activities and Programs with Minor Participants
Office of Human Resources – Policy 1.50
Child Abuse, Sexual Abuse, or Neglect Incident Report

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Section 1: Instructions:
This form is to be completed by the individual who witnesses, or has substantive information of child abuse, neglect, and/or sexual abuse of a minor. Make sure that the information provided below is factual and detailed as possible. Maintain a copy for your records. Submit to the Youth Policy Coordinator, minorpolicy@osu.edu or fax to (614) 292-6199. For consultation or questions, please contact the Youth Policy Coordinator at (614) 938-8843.

Unit name: _____ Program: _____

1. Did the alleged abuse/neglect occur on university property (or in an OSU activity/program)?
 Yes No


2. Is the alleged perpetrator OSU faculty, staff, appointee, student, student employee, graduate associate, or volunteer?
 Yes No

If you answered "yes" to either question, complete sections 2-4 below. If you answered "no" to both, complete sections 3 and 4.

Section 2: OSU-related incidents only fill out if questions 1 and/or 2 above were answered yes:

If you answered yes to questions 1 and/or 2 above, whom can we contact for more information if needed?
<http://go.osu.edu/150form>

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Information to Have When Making a Report

- Name, age, address of the child(ren)
- Name and address of the parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Name of the person(s) you suspect is abusing or neglecting the child and their address if available
- The reason(s) you suspect abuse/neglect
- **Note:** all of the above information is not needed to make a report
 - **If you are not sure you have enough information to report, always err on the safety of the child**

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Reporting

- Mandated per ORC
 - official/professional capacity
 - suspects or knows
- Moral / Ethical duty
- Giving your name
 - your name is **not** released by ODJFS
 - protection provided by the ORC
 - immunity from civil / criminal liability for reports made in good faith
 - protection provided by OSU's Whistleblower Policy
- What to do if confronted by a parent

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Slide 27

HA0 Is this accurate now with online form?

Holmes, Angela, 2022-01-19T22:22:09.026

HA0 0 Highlighted in blue

Holmes, Angela, 2022-01-19T22:22:25.063

Slide 28

HA0 Wrong graphic. Outdated form heading...


Holmes, Angela, 2022-01-19T22:56:47.868

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Trends due to COVID -19

- Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting to Child protection agencies, across Ohio, in 2020-21 show that reports are down due to children having less contact with mandated reporters, but the seriousness of concerns being referred are higher.
- Youth may have less caring adult role models to keep them safe and advocate for them. It is even more vital that we take our responsibilities seriously!

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After the Report is Made

- Intake / Risk assessment
- Investigation / Ongoing involvement
- Protective supervision
- Custody / Placement / Legal action
- Case plan
- Ongoing reviews
- Permanency planning / Adoption

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CHILDREN CANNOT
STOP CHILD ABUSE.
ADULTS CAN...

**We all have a role to play
in helping to prevent
child abuse and neglect:**

- Being able to recognize potential signs of neglect
- Knowing resources available in your community
- Helping connect families with needed social services
- Fostering positive relationships with the parents of the youth in your club
- Offering words of encouragement

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<https://www.knightshelterinternational.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/child-abuse.jpg>



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**Positive
Welcoming
Safe
Environments**

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