

Ohio Revised Code. (Ohio Revised Code Sections 2151.421 (H)(3) and 2921.14).

Ohio State University Extension

6. Extension personnel and volunteers will be familiar with and follow the reporting procedure described by Ohio law, including reporting the (1) names and addresses of the child and his/her parent(s) or the person(s) having custody of the child; (2) the child's age and nature and extent of known or suspected injuries, abuse or neglect or of the child's known or suspected injuries, abuse, or neglect or of the known or suspected threat of injury, abuse, or neglect, including any evidence or previous injuries, abuse, or neglect; (3) any other information that might be helpful in establishing the cause of the known or suspected injury abuse, or neglect or of the known or suspected threat of injury, abuse, or neglect. (Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.421(C)).
7. Extension personnel, staff, and volunteers shall not contact the parent(s) and youth involved in a reported suspected child abuse incident unless instructed to do so by appropriate legal authorities.
8. When an incident that involves Extension personnel, staff, or volunteer is reported to the public children services agency, the County Department of Human Services exercising the children services function, or the appropriate municipal or county peace officer, the immediate supervisor in consultation with the appropriate Extension administrator, will remove the person from all activities involving direct contact with youth until the matter is resolved.
9. Extension personnel, staff, and volunteers will handle suspected child abuse information in a confidential manner. Involved Extension personnel, staff, and volunteers will discuss matters pertaining to suspected abuse with only their immediate supervisor and the public children services agency or the appropriate municipal or county peace officer.

This policy originally approved by the Ohio state University Extension Administrative Cabinet, in consultation with Gary E. Brown, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Affairs, The Ohio State University (8/05/92). Updates from the Ohio Revised Code were included and approved by Administrative Cabinet (9/1/02).



Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Procedures



All educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, age, disability or Vietnam-era veteran status. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Keith L. Smith, Director, Ohio State University Extension.

TDD # 1 (800) 589-8292 (Ohio only) or (614) 292-1868

REPORTING PROCEDURES for children under eighteen years of age or a mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired child under twenty-one years of age.

1. According to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.421 anyone may report child abuse or neglect to the public children services agency or a municipal or county peace officer in which the child resides or in which the abuse or neglect is occurring or has occurred. In addition, this law also imposes upon the following persons a legal reporting obligation by stating that such person " who is acting in an official or professional capacity and knows or suspects that a child under eighteen years of age or a mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired child under twenty-one years of age has suffered or faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, injury, disability, or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the child":

- attorney;
- physician, including a hospital intern or resident, dentist, podiatrist, practitioner of a limited branch of medicine or surgery;
- registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, visiting nurse, other health care professional;
- licensed psychologist, licensed school psychologist;
- speech pathologist or audiologist;
- coroner;
- administrator or employee of a child day-care center, administrator, or employee of a certified child care agency or other public or private children services agency;
- administrator or employee of a residential camp or child day camp;
- school teacher, school employee, school authority

- person engaged in social work or the practice of professional counseling
- person rendering spiritual treatment through prayer in accordance with the tenets of a well-recognized religion"
- independent marriage and family therapist or marriage and family therapist
- agent of a county humane society

2. Although Ohio State University Extension professional are not listed specifically in number one, O.S.U. Extension encourages all Extension personnel, staff, and volunteers to report forthwith, either by telephone or in person, suspected cases to the public children services agency or a Municipal or County Peace Officer in the county in which the child resides or in which the abuse or neglect is suspected to have occurred. (Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.421 (A) and (B))
3. When Extension personnel, staff, or volunteers file a report as described in paragraph two, such person shall then immediately inform:
 - either the Agent responsible for the program, and/or the County Chair, or their immediate supervisor about the incident so reported.
 - this information shall proceed through Ohio State University Extension administration until the District Director, the appropriate Assistant Director, Associate Director and Director have been informed of the situation.
4. Ohio law provides that anyone reporting suspected child abuse or participating in a judicial proceeding resulting from such reports, is immune from any civil or criminal liability that otherwise might be imposed as a result of such actions when taken in good faith. (Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.421 (G))
5. A person who knowingly makes or causes another person to make a false report that alleges that any person has committed an act or omission that resulted in a child being an abused or a neglected child is guilty of a violation of section 2921.14 of the