

Abuse: 'The unwritten rule is, when in doubt, report it'

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What many people do not know is their mandatory reporting responsibility is with them 24-hours per day, not just at work. Mandatory reporters do not have to be convinced of abuse, they just need to have a "reasonable basis to believe," a low standard that usually means either seeing or hearing believed abuse.

There is no harm in reporting an incident that ends up being unfounded or wrong, Brown said. Penalties only come from not reporting or completely making up a false report.

"The unwritten rule is, when in doubt, report it," Brown said.

Not the majority

Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston said the majority of mandatory reporters make timely reports to his department. In fact, anecdotally, Astoria Police have received an increase in child abuse reports and DHS referrals in the past year. The increase does not mean more child abuse in town, but rather more people feeling comfortable to report. Not all reports are found to be criminal cases.

Occasionally, Johnston said, his department will hear about mandatory reporters taking cases into their own hands. He recalled one case where a therapist held an intervention for a father, who apparently sexually abused his daughter.

"You can imagine how many things are taken off the table and how the victim is going to feel faced with her abuser," Johnston

HOW TO REPORT

Oregon's mandatory child abuse reporting law requires a large list of occupations to report possible child abuse. The penalty for not reporting is a \$2,000 fine. Even if someone is not required by law to report child abuse, they are still encouraged to report. People can call 911 or the Oregon Department of Human Services in Clatsop County at 877-302-0077.

The following is a list of occupations that fall under the state's mandatory child abuse reporting law:

- Physician or physician assistant;
- Dentist;
- School employee, including a higher education institution;
- Licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse's aide, home health aide or in-home health service employee;
- Employee of DHS,

Oregon Health Authority, Early Learning Division, Youth Development Division, Office of Child Care, the Oregon Youth Authority, a county health department, a community mental health program, a community developmental disabilities program, a county juvenile department, a licensed child-caring agency or an alcohol and drug treatment program.

- Peace officer;
- Psychologist;
- Member of the clergy;
- Regulated social worker;
- Optometrist;
- Chiropractor;
- Certified provider of foster care or employee;
- Attorney;
- Licensed professional counselor;
- Licensed marriage and family therapist;
- Firefighter or emergency medical services provider;
- A court appointed special advocate;

- A child care provider registered or certified;
- Member of the Legislative Assembly;
- Physical, speech or occupational therapist;
- Audiologist;
- Speech-language pathologist;
- Teacher Standards and Practices Commission employee;
- Pharmacist;
- An operator of a preschool recorded program and a school-age recorded program;
- Employee of a private agency facilitating respite services;
- Employee of a public or private organization providing child-related services, including youth camps, scout groups or community service;
- A coach, assistant coach or trainer of an amateur, semiprofessional or professional athlete, if compensated and if the athlete is a child.

said. "We were never able to resolve that case."

Everyone report

Recent, high-profile child abuse cases in Clatsop County this past year have highlighted the importance of reporting, according to the District Attorney's Office.

On July 31, Jessica Smith, of Goldendale, Wash., allegedly drugged and murdered her 2-year-old daughter and attempted to kill her 13-year-old

daughter in a Cannon Beach hotel.

Six months later, on Dec. 20, Dorothy Ann Wing of Seaside and her live-in boyfriend Randy Lee Roden allegedly murdered Wing's 2-year-old daughter and injured her two sons, ages 5 and 2.

Both cases are going to trial next year.

In the Seaside case, Wing and Roden apparently abused the three children for at least two months before the daughter

was found dead. Although it is a relatively short amount of time, prosecutors suspect other people may have seen the abused children and may not have reported it.

Dawn Buzzard, a prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office, said everyone — not just mandatory reporters — should report child abuse.

"Our detectives really are invested in child abuse and investigating child abuse," Buzzard said. "Their cries are heard."

Hayes: Records show she directed the work of state employees

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On Feb. 12 the Oregon Attorney General's Office ordered Hayes to turn over the emails after The Oregonian filed a petition seeking the records. Hayes had opposed that petition and argued she was not a public official and thus not subject to Oregon public records laws. Deputy Attorney General Frederick M. Boss rejected that argument.

"It is clear that Ms. Hayes worked extensively on gov-

ernment matters, and did at least some of that work by email," Boss wrote in the Feb. 12 order.

Records already released to the EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau and other news organizations have revealed Hayes directed the work of state employees, including at least one executive-level employee.

— *The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

Dinner: 'It's a lot more symbiotic than just a dinner.'

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best with the different courses," Griffin said. The choices must be made from among a multitude.

"This is where beer actually gets a little more sophisticated than wine," said Griffin. "There are a lot more styles of beer."

"For example," he added, "I got an email from Ken at Pelican, who suggested a beer for the second course, a soup, which had a fancy Cheddar kind of basing. In the notes he said, 'I would not use an IPA unless this white Cheddar was the dominant flavor in the soup.'"

However tantalizing the brewed pairings may be, the culinary students are creating the bigger buzz. Twice as many tickets (125) are available this year, and by all accounts they're going fast.

"If that sells out quickly enough," said Duffy, "we'll possibly open up even more seating."

Griffin, meanwhile, revels in the blooming local interest.

"I notice a lot of younger folks who are big community movers and shakers wanting

BREWERS DINNER

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. March 6
WHERE: Seaside Civic and Convention Center
COST: \$65; reservations are required. Contact the Seaside Chamber of Commerce at 503-738-6391.

to be a part of it," Griffin said of the dinner. "Before, it was a little bit more passive. Now people are kind of fighting for spots. We've got a big buy-in from local businesses who have the opportunity to sponsor tables and they're jumping at it."

All of this excites the culinary arts program, which will not only receive the proceeds after expenses are paid, but will be tested on their execution. And while the students might be sweating, Griffin couldn't be happier.

"Now it's more than just enjoying a fantastic meal and a bunch of fantastic beers," he said. "You get all of that, plus you get to help kids in your own community. It's a lot more symbiotic than just a dinner."

Medix: Two-hour rides to Portland are common

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Medix employs 68 people, including more than 30 full-time paramedics and EMTs.

The difference between a paramedic and an EMT is similar to the difference between a doctor and a nurse, Mullins said. A paramedic is required to have a college degree, complete an internship and pass a paramedic test. An EMT needs two college terms to become qualified, a lesser education requirement.

Either a paramedic or an EMT can drive the ambulance, as long as they have been trained to operate an emergency vehicle.

Each ambulance is equipped with similar items found in an emergency room, including a heart monitor, intravenous therapy or IV, a ventilator, medical drugs, bandages and gurney.

Paramedics say they can draw blood, but can not tell the patient what it means. Lab tests and X-rays are done at the emergency rooms.

"What some people don't understand is what we do is just about everything you would get done at an ER," Medix Paramedic Supervisor Don Thomas said. "We are doing everything in preparation for ER. As far as drugs and treatment, we have it all."

Medix transports patients to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, Providence Seaside Hospital and Ocean Beach Hospital in Ilwaco.

Depending on the severity of the injury, Medix regularly



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Brian Cole, left, and Sally Hilfert, right, work in the dispatch room of the Medix headquarters in Warrenton.

makes trips to Portland-area hospitals.

Thomas, who previously worked in the Hillsboro area, said metropolitan area ambulance services rarely make long trips because hospitals are relatively close to cities.

The nearly two-hour rides to larger hospitals in Portland are common for rural services such as Medix, Thomas said.

Medix responds to more than 6,500 ambulance requests and about 7,000 requests for wheelchair service annually.

"All of our ambulances get used well," Thomas said.

Along with the long trips, the medics work long hours. A regular shift is usually 24 hours, either from 6 a.m. to 6 a.m. or 7 a.m. to 7 a.m. Unlike other emergency services, the medics do not have the comfort of a fire hall, but rather have to take short naps in the ambulance.

The naps end quickly when they get dispatched to another incident. Medix has two dispatchers in the Warrenton

office who communicate with the ambulances. The medics have to stay alert.

"They prepare for it and just do it," Mullins said. "We want to make sure the patient gets transported and that's not always convenient. In some cases, they have worked 22 hours and the patient needs to go to Portland. They know its for the good of the patient."

Another common phrase found in news reports is that the police and fire departments were assisted by Medix. However, Rangila points out that each service works together to assist the patient. Medix does not assist the other departments, but works equally to get the job done. At a crash scene, police handle traffic control and citations, fire departments handle fires and extractions and Medix's role is patient care and transport.

"It's us all working together," Thomas said.



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The watchdog role of the Oregon Attorney General

March 3rd Ellen Rosenblum

Rosenblum is Attorney General of Oregon

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Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker will begin after the dinner service is complete and non-dinner members and guests of the audience take their seats.

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