

Oregon Law & Best Practices

Involving Parents/Adults

in Youth Suicide Prevention

Clinicians are encouraged to involve parents, guardians or trusted adults in youth suicide prevention and safety planning to prevent or lessen the risk of a suicide attempt.

Oregon House Bill 3139/ORS 109.680 went into effect 1/1/2022. The law **REQUIRES** licensed medical and mental health care providers to disclose information about a minor's treatment and diagnosis as clinically appropriate regarding a serious and imminent risk of suicide.

These disclosures should be made to parents, legal guardians, or people who may protect the youth through safety planning. Include the minor in the process and give them the opportunity to object and discuss.

Exceptions to this requirement:

- Reasonable belief of abuse or domestic violence against youth
- Youth would be endangered by sharing info
- Against the youth's best interests
- Legal emancipation or 90-day separation from family

Providers may also disclose a minor's suicidality to:

- Parents or guardians if inpatient treatment or detoxification is necessary
- Trusted adults, schools, and social services as part of treatment support

Under federal law, a signed release is **NOT** required for coordination of care or during emergencies among professionals, with family members, or other relevant persons. Providers are protected from civil liability for disclosing information in good faith to parents/guardians or trusted adults without a minor's consent.