

CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

147.600 Confidentiality of certain victim communications and records; exception. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Certified advocate” means a person who:

(A) Has completed at least 40 hours of training in advocacy for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, approved by the Attorney General by rule; and

(B) Is an employee or a volunteer of a qualified victim services program.

(b) “Confidential communication” means a written or oral communication that is not intended for further disclosure to third persons except to:

(A) Persons present at the time the communication is made who are present to further the interests of the victim in the course of seeking safety planning, counseling, support or advocacy services;

(B) Persons reasonably necessary for the transmission of the communication; or

(C) Other persons, in the context of group counseling.

(c) “Qualified victim services program” means:

(A) A nongovernmental, nonprofit, community-based program receiving moneys administered by the state Department of Human Services or the Oregon or United States Department of Justice that offers safety planning, counseling, support or advocacy services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking; or

(B) A sexual assault center, victim advocacy office, women’s center, student affairs center, health center or other program providing safety planning, counseling, support or advocacy services to victims that is on the campus of or affiliated with a two-year or four-year post-secondary institution that enrolls one or more students who receive an Oregon Opportunity Grant.

(d) “Victim” means a person seeking safety planning, counseling, support or advocacy services related to domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking at a qualified victims services program.

(2) Except as provided in ORS 40.252 and 40.264, without the written, informed consent of the victim that is reasonably limited in duration, a certified advocate or a qualified victim services program may not disclose:

(a) Confidential communications between a victim and the certified advocate or qualified victim services program made in course of safety planning, counseling, support or advocacy services.

(b) Records that are created or maintained in the course of providing services regarding the victim.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, a certified advocate or a qualified victim services program may disclose confidential communications or records without the victim’s consent only:

(a) To the extent necessary for defense in any civil, criminal or administrative action that is brought against the certified advocate, or against the qualified victim services program, by or on behalf of the victim; and

(b) As otherwise required by law.

(4) This section does not prohibit the disclosure of aggregate, non-personally identifying data. [2015 c.265 §4]

Note: Section 5 (4), chapter 265, Oregon Laws 2015, provides:

Sec. 5. (4) Sections 2 [40.264] and 4 [147.600] of this 2015 Act and the amendments to ORS 40.252 by section 3 of this 2015 Act apply to communications and records made before, on or after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section [October 1, 2015], unless the communications were disclosed to a third party before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section. [2015 c.265 §5(4)]