

School-based Prevention Services:

Youth Violence Best Practices

If a student reports they are being abused or neglected, or someone is suspicious of abuse or neglect:

➤ You must promptly report this to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS). Oklahoma law expressly requires that **every person** having reason to believe that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect shall promptly report the matter to DHS. **The number to DHS Child Abuse Hotline is 1-800-522-3511.**

➤ Who is at risk of youth violence?

- Many factors can increase the risk of a youth engaging in violence. However, the presence of these factors does not always mean that a young person will become an offender. Risk factors for youth violence include:
 - Prior history of violence
 - Drug, alcohol, or tobacco use
 - Association with delinquent peers
 - Poor family functioning
 - Poor grades in school
 - Poverty in the community

➤ How can we prevent youth violence?

- The ultimate goal is to stop youth violence before it starts. Several prevention strategies have been identified.
- Parent- and family-based programs improve family relations. Parents receive training on child development. They also learn skills for talking with their kids and solving problems in nonviolent ways.
- Social-development strategies teach children how to handle tough social situations. They learn how to resolve problems without using violence.
- Mentoring programs pair an adult with a young person. The adult serves as a positive role model and helps guide the young person's behavior.
- Changes can be made to the physical and social environment. These changes address the social and economic causes of violence.

School-based Prevention Services:

Youth Violence Best Practices



What is the Law?

Abuse-Prevention Practices

[70 O.S. § 1210.160](#)

[70 O.S. § 1210.162](#)

[70 O.S. § 1210.163](#)

- 70 O.S. § 1210.160: This bill allows local boards of education to establish an abuse-prevention instructional program for students. It provides developmental and age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, adaptable, and evidence-informed curriculum to teach children risk-reduction strategies.
- 70 O.S. § 1210.162: This bill requires schools to post a sign in English and Spanish containing the toll-free Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline maintained by DHS. The sign must be posted in a clearly visible location in an area of the school that is readily accessible to students.
- 70 O.S. § 1210.163: Child abuse and neglect amended reporting procedures. Regarding Child abuse reporting every school employee having reason to believe that any student under the age of eighteen (18) years is a victim of abuse or neglect shall report the matter immediately to the Department of Human Services and local law enforcement.