

Differential Response is an approach that allows child protective services to respond differently to accepted reports of child abuse and neglect, based on such factors as the type and severity of the alleged maltreatment, number and sources of previous reports, and willingness of the family to participate in services (American Humane Association). It is a system of response to reports of abuse and neglect that contains at least two distinct response pathways. The term DR will be used to refer to the two-track system (Oregon). Oregon is currently in the process of implementing Differential Response, with the goal of beginning to rollout this practice by May 2014. Implementation has already begun in Lane, Lake, and Klamath counties.

Common principles of traditional Child Protective Services and Differential Response:

- Both focus on safety and well-being of the child
- Both promote permanency within the family
- Both recognize the authority of CPS to make decisions about removal, out of home placement and court involvement, when necessary
- Both acknowledge that other community services may be more appropriate than CPS intervention in some cases

Factors that should be considered in track assignment include:

- Severity of allegation
- Present or Probable Impending Danger
- Statutory limitations/requirements such as Karly's Law
- Ability to assure safety of child
- History of past reports

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/beyondfc/differential-response/Documents/about-or-dr.pdf>

Defining DR

https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/issue_briefs/differential_response/differential_responsea.cfm

DR In Child Welfare

<http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/pdfs/children/differential-response/pc-20-2-3pdf.pdf>

Oregon's Implementation of DR

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/beyondfc/differential-response/Pages/differential-response-initiative.aspx>

Oregon's Vision for DR

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/beyondfc/differential-response/Documents/DR-vision-statement.pdf>

American Humane Association's Current Projects Regarding DR

<http://www.americanhumane.org/children/programs/differential-response/current-projects/>

DR National Overview Video

Theresa Costello, National Resource Center for Child Protective Services (NRCCPS)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtAGGNd2Y0o>