



Multnomah County Child Fatality Review Team

1200 SW 1st Avenue • Portland, Oregon 97204 • 503 988-6091 • FAX 503 988-6198

Re: Photo and Photography Safety

To Our Valued Community Member:

On August 7, 2020, the Multnomah County Child Fatality Review Team met and discussed a recent death that occurred after a teen was struck by a train while the teen and photographer were taking senior photos along train tracks.

The purpose of the Child Fatality Review Process is to help prevent severe and fatal child abuse and neglect by: (a) Identifying local and state issues related to preventable child fatalities; and (b) Promoting implementation of recommendations at the county level. *ORS 418.785 (1)*.

Our team is partnering with Oregon Operation Lifesaver to work toward eliminating railroad related preventable child deaths. Oregon Operation Lifesaver is a nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and trespassing on or near railroad tracks.

We jointly recommend that schools update their photo policy with regards to yearbook photo submissions and photography class assignments. Schools should not assign or accept photos taken on train tracks or on any railroad property. Taking photos on or around train tracks or railroad property is not only dangerous, but illegal. Entering or remaining on railroad property is the crime of criminal trespass in the first degree. *ORS 164.255 (1)(a)*.

As schools don't assign or accept photos displaying other forms of illegal activity, we respectfully request that you adopt similar practices regarding train tracks or railroad property as well. Our belief is that if these photos are not assigned or accepted, it is less likely that children will expose themselves to this dangerous activity.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the Multnomah County Child Fatality review process. Our fatality coordinator, Nicole Hagen, can be reached at 503-988-6091 or by email at nicole.hagen@mcdca.us. If you have any questions about Oregon Operation Lifesaver or their free programs and resources, please feel free to schedule a program online at <https://oli.org/education-resources/request-a-presenter/>, email oregonlifesaver@gmail.com or call 503-396-1978.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
John Casalino
John Casalino
Committee Co-Chair
Multnomah County Child Fatality Review Team
Chief Deputy District Attorney, Multnomah County

St-K
Steven Kreins
Executive Director
Oregon Operation Lifesaver

CC: School Board
CC: Superintendent

