



MIND THE GAP: THE RIGHTS OF YOUTH & PARENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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- **ORS419B.090(5)**

It is the policy of the State of Oregon, in those cases not described as extreme conduct under ORS 419B.502 (Termination upon finding of extreme conduct), to offer appropriate reunification services to parents and guardians to allow them the opportunity to adjust their circumstances, conduct or conditions to make it possible for the child to safely return home within a reasonable time.

The state shall provide to parents and guardians with disabilities opportunities to benefit from or participate in reunification services that are equal to those extended to individuals without disabilities.

The state shall provide aids, benefits and services different from those provided to parents and guardians without disabilities, when necessary to ensure that parents and guardians with disabilities are provided with an equal opportunity under this subsection.

Although there is a strong preference that children live in their own homes with their own families, the state recognizes that it is not always possible or in the best interests of the child or the public for children who have been abused or neglected to be reunited with their parents or guardians. In those cases, the State of Oregon has the obligation to create or provide an alternative, safe and permanent home for the child.