



rape and abuse
crisis center
advocacy, counseling, education.

INDICATORS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

CATEGORY	CHILD'S APPEARANCE	CHILD'S BEHAVIOR	CARETAKER'S BEHAVIOR
Physical Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unexplained bruises and welts on the face, lips or mouth in various stages of healing; on large areas of the torso, back, buttocks or thighs, in unusual patterns, clustered or reflective of the instrument used to inflict them; on several different surface areas• Unexplained burns: cigar/cigarette burns, glove or sock-like burns or donut shaped burns on buttocks or genitalia indicative of immersion in hot liquid; rope burns on arms, legs, neck or torso; patterned burns that show the shape of the item used to inflict them (iron, grill, etc.)• Fractures: skull, jaw or nasal; spiral fractures of the long bones (arm and leg); fractures in various stages of healing; multiple fractures; any fracture in a child under age two.• Lacerations and abrasions to the mouth, lips, gums, eyes or external genitalia• Human bite marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wary of physical contact with adults• Apprehensive when other children cry• Demonstrates extreme behavior (ex: extreme aggressiveness or withdrawal)• Seems frightened of parents• Afraid to go home• Reports injury by caretaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a history of abuse as a child• Uses harsh discipline inappropriate to child's age, transgression and condition• Offers illogical, unconvincing, contradictory or no explanation of child's injury• Seems unconcerned about child• Significantly misperceives child (ex: sees child as bad, evil, a monster, etc.)• Psychotic or psychopathic• Misuses alcohol or other drugs• Attempts to conceal child's injury• Attempts to protect identity of person responsible for child's injury
Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistently dirty, unwashed, hungry or inappropriately dressed• Without supervision for extended periods of time or when engaged in dangerous activities• Constantly tired or listless• Has unattended physical problems or lacks routine medical care• Is exploited, overworked or kept from attending school• Has been abandoned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begging or stealing food• Extended stays at school (early arrival and late departure) -or rarely attends school.• Constant fatigue, listlessness or falling asleep in class• Is engaging in delinquent acts (ex: vandalism, drinking, prostitution, drug use)• States that there is no caretaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Misuses alcohol or other drugs• Maintains chaotic home life• Shows evidence of apathy or futility• Is mentally ill or of diminished intelligence• Has long term chronic illnesses• Has history of neglect as a child

Sexual Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in walking or sitting • Has torn, stained or bloody underclothing • Experiences pain or itching in genital area • Has bruises or bleeding in external genitalia, vagina or anal regions • Has venereal disease • Has swollen or red cervix, vulva or perineum • Has semen around mouth or genitalia or on clothing • Pregnant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appears withdrawn or engages in fantasy or infantile behavior • Bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge • Has poor peer relationships • Is unwilling to participate in physical activities (P.E. class) • Is engaging in delinquent acts or runs away • States he/she has been sexually assaulted by caretaker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely protective or jealous of child • Encourages child to engage in prostitution or sexual acts in the presence of the caretaker • Has been sexually abused as a child • Is experiencing marital difficulties • Misuses alcohol or other drugs • Is frequently absent from the home
Emotional Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech disorders • Lags in physical development • Failure to thrive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appears overly compliant or passive • Is extremely aggressive, demanding or full of rage. • Conduct disorders (antisocial, destructive, etc.) • Neurotic traits (sleep disorders, inhibition of play) • Psychoneurotic reactions (hysteria, obsession, compulsion, phobia, hypochondria) • Shows overly adaptive behaviors, either inappropriately adult (ex: parents other children) or inappropriately infantile (ex: rocks constantly, sucks thumb) • Lags in physical, emotional, intellectual development • Attempts suicide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blames or belittles child • Is cold and rejecting • Withholds love • Treats siblings unequally • Seems unconcerned about child's problems