



American
Behavioral
Solutions

ABUSE & NEGLECT PREVENTION

WHAT CONSTITUTES ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

PHYSICAL ABUSE: Non-accidental physical injury to child caused by parent, caregiver, or other person responsible for child that ranges from minor to severe.

NEGLECT: Failure of parent or caregiver to provide for a child's basic needs (physical, medical, educational, emotional).

SEXUAL ABUSE: Activities by any adult, including fondling a child's genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, exploitation through prostitution or production of pornographic materials.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE: Behavior that impairs child's emotional development or sense of self-worth.

ABANDONMENT: Parent's whereabouts is unknown; child has been left alone in circumstances in which child suffers harm or has been deserted with no regard for safety.

PARENTAL SUBSTANCE USE: Exposing child to harm prenatally through legal or illegal drugs; manufacturing drugs in presence of child; selling or distributing illegal drugs or alcohol to child; using controlled substance that impairs caregiver's ability to care for child.

EXPLOITATION: Taking advantage of an individual's vulnerability for personal gain, including financial, physical, or emotional exploitation.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Sex trafficking (ex. Prostitution, pornography, stripping) or Labor trafficking (forced labor, including drug dealing, begging, working long hours for little pay).

SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

THE CHILD MAY HAVE UNEXPLAINED:

- Bruises, welts, cuts or other injuries
- Broken bones
- Burns

A CHILD EXPERIENCING PHYSICAL ABUSE MAY:

- Seem withdrawn or depressed
- Shy away from physical contact
- Be aggressive
- Wear inappropriate clothing to hide injuries

SIGNS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

THE CHILD MAY HAVE:

- Torn, stained or bloody underwear
- Trouble walking or sitting down
- Pain or itching in genital area
- A sexually transmitted disease

A CHILD EXPERIENCING SEXUAL ABUSE MAY:

- Fear a particular person
- Gain or lose weight suddenly
- Shy away from physical contact
- Run away from home

SIGNS OF NEGLECT

THE CHILD MAY HAVE:

- Unattended medical needs
- Little or no supervision at home
- Poor hygiene
- Signs of malnutrition

A CHILD EXPERIENCING NEGLECT MAY:

- Be frequently tired or hungry
- Steal food
- Appear overly needy for adult attention



KEEP IN MIND THAT:

- **CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES MAY BE AT HIGHER RISK FOR ABUSE OR NEGLECT**
- **SERIOUS ABUSE USUALLY INVOLVES A COMBINATION OF INDICATORS. WHILE A SINGLE SIGN MAY NOT BE SIGNIFICANT, A PATTERN OF PHYSICAL OR BEHAVIORAL SIGNS IS A SERIOUS INDICATOR AND SHOULD BE REPORTED**

WHO MUST REPORT?

Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of physical injury, abuse or neglect

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE AND NEGLECT

If you suspect that a child or vulnerable individual is being abused, neglected, or exploited, please contact local law enforcement or the hotlines below:

NATIONAL:
800-422-4453
(Childhelp Hotline)

ARIZONA:
1-888-767-2445
(Child Abuse Hotline)

MASSACHUSETTS:
1-800-792-5200
(Child-at-Risk Hotline)

FLORIDA:
1-800-962-2873
(Abuse Hotline)

**IF YOU SUSPECT SOMEONE
IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER,
CALL 9-1-1**



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CONTACT US

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