

Potential Indicators of Child Abuse and/or Neglect

Determining when to report suspected child abuse can be hard. Below are indicators of physical and behavioral abuse and/or neglect.

Note that these are just indicators of child abuse and neglect and if present do not mean a child is being abused or neglected.



Physical Neglect - Physical Indicators

- Unattended medical needs.
- Lack of supervision
- Regular signs of hunger, inappropriate dress, poor hygiene
- Distended stomach, emaciated
- Significant weight change,

Physical Neglect - Behavioral Indicators

- Regularly displays fatigue or listlessness, falls asleep in class.
- Steals/hoards food, begs from classmates.
- Reports that no caretaker is at home.

Physical Neglect - Behavioral Indicators

- Unexplained bruises (in various stages of healing), welts, loop marks.
- Adult/human bite marks
- Bald spots or missing clumps of hair
- Unexplained fractures, skin lacerations/punctures or abrasions.
- Linear/parallel marks on cheeks and temple areas.
- Crescent-shaped bruising.
- Puncture wounds.
- Bruising behind the ears.

Sexual Abuse - Physical Indicators

- Pain or itching in genital area.
- Bruises or bleeding in genital area.
- Sexually transmitted disease.
- Frequent urinary or yeast infections
- Extreme or sudden weight change.
- Pregnancy under 12 years of age.

Sexual Abuse - Behavioral Indicators

- Withdrawal, chronic depression
- Sexual behaviors or references that are unusual for the child's age.
- Seductive or promiscuous behavior.
- Poor self-esteem, self-devaluation, lack of confidence.
- Suicide attempts (especially adolescents).
- Hysteria, lack of emotional control.

To report abuse or neglect call:
855-444-3911