

Children's Center



A Child Advocacy Center

Signs of Abuse and Neglect

Neglect occurs when parents or caregivers do not provide proper food, clothing, shelter, supervision, medical care and education to meet developmental needs for healthy growth.

Physical signs may include:

- Poor hygiene
- Inappropriate or ill-fitting clothes
- Obvious lack of necessary medical treatment

Behavioral signs may include:

- Chronic hunger and sleepiness
- Clinging behavior
- Often complains of feeling ill

Physical Abuse is non-accidental injury of a child by a parent or primary caregiver.

Physical signs may include:

- Bruises, welts, swelling
- Sprains or broken bones
- Burns
- Lacerations
- Bite marks

Behavioral signs may include:

- attempts to hide injuries
- Difficulty sitting or walking
- Wariness of physical contact
- Reluctance to go home
- Fear of parent(s)/caregiver(s)

Sexual Abuse is exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or older child.

Physical signs may include:

- Torn, stained or bloody clothes
- Genital pain or itching
- Sexually transmitted diseases

Behavioral signs may include:

- Difficulty sitting or walking
- Precocious sexual behavior
- Self-mutilation

To report suspected child abuse or neglect call: 1-800-932-0313

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