

Neglect

Neglect occurs when the parent or caretaker fails, either deliberately or through inability, to take actions necessary to provide a child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, or other essential care. **The following indicators, when found in groups or when following a pattern, MAY be an indication of abuse.**

Physical Indicators

1. abandonment
2. unattended medical needs
3. consistent lack of supervision
4. poor hygiene, inappropriate dress
consistent hunger
5. distended stomach, emaciated

Behavioral Indicators

1. regularly displays fatigue or listlessness, falls asleep in class
2. steals food, begs from classmates
3. reports that no caretaker is at home
4. frequently absent or tardy
5. self-destructive
6. school dropout

Other areas that fall under the neglect area include:

Educational Neglect occurs when the parent or caretaker, either through action or omission, fails to provide for the child's education and/or school attendance.

Abandonment occurs when the child has no parental support or available alternate caretaker.

Medical Neglect occurs when the child requires medical treatment that the parent/guardian has not provided due to negligence or religious beliefs, and the failure to treat is life threatening or could cause serious impairment to the child's functioning.

Emotional Maltreatment occurs when the parent/caretaker's acts or omissions have caused or are likely to cause, injury or impairment to the child's psychological capacity or functioning.

***Lack of Supervision** occurs when the child's age and skill level would require parental supervision and could or did result in harm to the child. If you find a child alone and believe being left alone will result in harm to that child, call Law Enforcement. If you believe the child is okay but notice a pattern of being left alone that you believe is inappropriate, call Social Services.

Lack of Adequate Care occurs when the parent is unavailable to provide care due to incarceration or hospitalization and there is no adequate caretaker.

* **The Children's Code lists no set age that is legally permissible to leave a child alone.**

Sexual Abuse

- Sexual abuse includes activities by a parent, other adult or adolescent such as fondling, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.
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Physical Indicators

1. Difficulty walking or sitting
2. Torn, stained or bloody undergarments
3. Pain, swelling or itching in genital area
4. Pain when urinating
5. Bruises, Bleeding or tears around genitals
6. Vaginal or penile discharge
7. Sexually transmitted diseases
 - Herpes, crabs, vaginal warts
 - gonorrhea, syphilis
 - HIV, AIDS
8. Excessive masturbation

Behavioral Indicators

1. Sexual behavior or knowledge inappropriate child's age
2. Sexual acting out on other children
3. Poor peer relations
4. Delinquent or runaway behavior
5. Drastic change in school performance
6. Sleep disorders, nightmares
7. Eating disorders
8. Aggression
9. Withdrawal, fantasy, infantile behavior
10. Self-abusive behavior or lack or concern for personal safety
11. Substance abuse
12. Repetitive behaviors
 - hand washing, pacing, rocking
13. Unwilling to change for gym or participate in P.E. activities

Physical Abuse

- Physical Abuse is a non-accidental physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures to death) as a result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting (with a hand, or other object), burning or otherwise harming a child. Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caretaker intended to hurt the child.

Physical Indicators

1. Unexplained bruises and welts
 - on face, torso, back buttocks or thighs
 - identifiable shape of object used to inflict the injury (belt buckle, cord, etc.)
 - appear with regularity after absence, weekend, or vacation
2. Unexplained burns
 - on soles of feet, palms, back, head or buttocks
 - hot water or immersion burns (glove-like, sock-like or doughnut shaped burn on buttocks, extremities, genitals)
3. Unexplained fractures or dislocations, internal bleeding

Behavioral Indicators

1. Child states he/she “deserves” punishment
2. Wary of adult contact
3. Fearful when others cry
4. Behavioral extremes
 - aggression, withdrawal
5. Frightened of parents or caretaker
6. Afraid to go home
7. Child reports injury by parent or caretaker
8. Inappropriate or immature acting out
9. Needy for affection
10. Manipulative behaviors
11. Tendency toward superficial relationships
12. Unable to focus, daydreaming
13. Self abusive behavior or lack of concern for personal safety

Emotional Abuse

- Emotional abuse is a pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self worth. This may include constant criticism, threats, or rejection, as well as withholding love, support, or guidance. Emotional abuse is often difficult to prove and therefore, DSS may not be able to intervene without evidence of harm to the child. Emotional abuse is almost always present when other forms of abuse are identified.

Physical Indicators

1. Speech disorders
 - stuttering
 - baby talk
 - unresponsiveness
2. Failure to thrive
 - under weight, small for age
3. Hyperactive

Behavioral Indicators

1. Learning disabilities
2. Repetitive behaviors
 - Sucking, biting, rocking
3. Sleep disorders
4. Poor social skills
 - aggressive, withdrawn
5. Extreme reactions to common events
6. Unusually fearful
7. Attachment issues
8. Overly compliant behaviors
9. No self control
10. Self abuse – suicidal thoughts or actions
11. Difficulty following rules or directions