

DEFINING ABUSE

1. **Physical Abuse** – non-accidental injury of a child that leaves marks, scars, bruises, or broken bones.

Physical indicators of physical abuse: unexplained bruises, burns, human bites, broken bones, missing hair, scratches.

Behavioral indicators of physical abuse: wary of physical contact with adults, behavioral extremes (aggressive or withdrawn), frightened of parents, afraid to go home, cheating, stealing, lying (a sign that expectations in the home are too high), layered clothing.

2. **Neglect** – failure of parents or caretakers to provide needed, age appropriate care including food, clothing, shelter, protection from harm, and supervision appropriate to the child's development, hygiene, and medical care.

Physical indicators of neglect: constant hunger, poor hygiene, excessive sleepiness, lack of appropriate supervision, unattended physical problems or medical needs, abandonment, inappropriate clothing for weather conditions.

Behavioral indicators of neglect: begging or stealing food, frequent sleepiness, lack of appropriate supervision, unattended physical problem or medical needs, abandonment, inappropriate clothing for weather conditions.

3. **Sexual abuse** – any inappropriate sexual exposure or touch by an adult to a child or an older child to a younger child. This includes, but is not limited to: fondling, sexual intercourse, sexual assault, rape, date rape, incest, child prostitution, exposure, and pornography. It does not matter whether the victim was forced or tricked into any of the above, it is considered sexual abuse by the state of Utah.

Physical indicators of sexual abuse : difficulty in walking or sitting, torn, stained, or bloody underclothing, pain or itching in genital area, bruises or bleeding in rectal/genital area, venereal disease.

Behavioral indicators of sexual abuse: age-inappropriate sexual knowledge/sexual touch, abrupt change in personality, withdrawn, poor peer relationships, unwilling to change for gym or participate in physical activities, promiscuous behavior/seductive behavior, drop in school performance/decline in school interest, sleep disturbances, regressive behavior (i.e., bed wetting).

4. **Emotional abuse** – parental behavior, such as rejecting, terrorizing, berating, ignoring, or isolating a child, that causes, or is likely to cause, serious impairment of the physical, social, mental, or emotional capacities of the child.

Physical indicators of emotional abuse: speech disorders, lags in physical development, failure to thrive.

Behavioral indicators of emotional abuse: habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking), conduct disorders (withdrawal, destructiveness, cruelty), sleep disorders or inhibition of play, behavior extremes (aggressive or passive).