

INDICATORS OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse

- Unexplained bruises and welts.
- Unexplained burns.
- Unexplained fractures.
- Unexplained lacerations or abrasions.
- The child is wary of contacts with teachers and other children.
- The child is apprehensive when other children cry.
- The child exhibits behavioral extremes, such as aggressiveness or social withdrawal.
- The child is afraid to go home.

Sexual Abuse

- The child has difficulty in walking or sitting.
- The child has torn, stained or bloody underclothing.
- The child has bruises or bleeding in the external genitalia, vaginal, or anal areas.
- The child is unwilling to change for gym classes.
- The child withdraws from others or exhibits infantile behavior.
- The child has bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge.
- The child becomes a delinquent or runaway.

Emotional Abuse/Neglect

- The child is underweight or malnourished.
- The child is unkempt.
- The child withdraws, behaves destructively, steals or engages in other criminal behavior.
- The child is overly compliant, overly passive or aggressive, very demanding or under demanding.
- The child attempts suicide.
- The child is left alone at home.

What To Do If You Know About Or Suspect Child Abuse

- Don't panic; your reactions may further frighten or alarm the student.
- Sympathize with the student. Your compassionate ear will be therapeutic.
- Gently, yet firmly, get specific information: child's name, present location, parents' names and address, and nature and extent of abuse.
- Acknowledge the student's courage to open up.
- Explain that state laws require you to report this immediately.
- Emphasize that now something can be done to stop the abuse and begin the process of healing.

How To Report

1. Report abuse immediately to the local Child Protective Services (CPS) unit in your area or contact local law enforcement. Dial "911" if the situation requires an immediate response. The school district police or security department is NOT a Child Protective Agency.
2. Complete a Suspected Child Abuse Report Form (SS-8572) within 36 hours.
3. Mail the top three copies to the address given to you by the Child Protective Services unit in your area.
4. Document in your own personal notes the details of the abuse and the actions taken. Keep all records in a secure place.
5. Contact the local child protective agency for training on the recognition and investigation of child abuse.