

Possible Signs of Child Abuse

POSSIBLE PHYSICAL ABUSE WHEN YOU SEE:

- **Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns, especially when the child cannot adequately explain their cause.**
- **Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury.**
- **Burns or bruises in an unusual pattern that may indicate the use of an instrument or a human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body.**
- **Aggressive, disruptive, and destructive behavior.**
- **Lack of reaction to pain.**
- **Passive, withdrawn, and emotionless behavior.**
- **Fear of going home or seeing parents.**
- **Injuries that appear after the child has not been seen for several days.**
- **Unseasonable clothes that may hide injuries to arms or legs.**

POSSIBLE NEGLECT WHEN YOU SEE:

- **Obvious malnourishment.**
- **Lack of personal cleanliness.**
- **Torn and/or dirty clothes.**
- **Obvious fatigue and listlessness.**
- **A child unattended for long periods of time.**
- **Need for glasses, dental care, or other medical attention.**
- **Stealing or begging for food.**
- **Frequent absence or tardiness to school.**

POSSIBLE SEXUAL ABUSE WHEN YOU SEE:

- **Physical signs of sexually transmitted diseases.**
- **Evidence of injury to the genital area.**
- **Pregnancy in a young girl.**
- **Difficulty in sitting or walking.**
- **Frequent expression of sexual activity between adults and children.**
- **Extreme fear of being alone with adults of a particular sex.**
- **Sexually suggestive, inappropriate, or promiscuous behavior.**
- **Knowledge about sexual relations beyond what is appropriate for the child's age.**
- **Sexual victimization of other children.**