

INDICATORS OF POSSIBLE CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical Indicators:

- Main areas of injury: face, lips, mouth, torso, back, buttocks, thighs
- Unexplained bruises and welts in various stages of healing.
- Clusters of bruising or welts reflecting an object shape
- Regularly appearing after an absence
- Unexplained abrasions or lacerations
- Consider area of injury: mouth, lips, eyes, external genitalia
- Rope burns on arms, legs, neck, torso
- Unexplained burns
- Circular burns
- Immersion burns (glove- or sock-like)
- Patterned burns, resembling an object (i.e. an iron or electrical item)
- Unexplained fractures in various stages of healing
- multiple or spiral fractures

Behavioral Indicators:

- Wary of physical contact
- Behavior extremes—aggressiveness or withdrawal
- Frightened of parent or caretaker
- Poor social skills and peer interaction
- Apprehensive when adults get angry or other children cry
- Complaints of soreness or moves uncomfortably
- Seeks affection from anyone
- Acts out in order to get attention
- Runs away from home

SEXUAL ABUSE

Physical Indicators:

- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Pain or itching in genital area
- Presence of a sexually transmitted disease
- Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia
- Pregnancy

Behavioral Indicators:

- Displays advanced, unusual or bizarre sexual knowledge
- Radical changes in bathroom habits
- Threatened by physical closeness
- Withdrawn or chronically depressed
- Excessive masturbation; preoccupation with genitals
- Sudden massive weight change
- Reports sexual touch or assault

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Physical Indicators:

- Delayed physical development
- Speech disorders
- Changes in behavior, personality
- Failure to thrive
- Substance abuse, cutting, fire starting

Behavioral Indicators:

- Habit disorders (sucking, biting, etc.)
- Anti-social or destructive behavior
- Unusual fearfulness, sleep disorders
- Behavioral extremes
- Attempted suicide

PHYSICAL NEGLECT

Physical Indicators:

- Constant hunger
- Failure to thrive or achieve expected growth patterns, underweight
- Lack of proper supervision, desertion abandonment
- Unattended medical or dental needs
- Evidence of poor hygiene; inappropriate dress
- Bald patches on an infant's scalp

Behavioral Indicators:

- Begging for or stealing food
- Constant fatigue and listlessness; falling asleep at school
- Reports there is no caretaker
- Frequently absent or tardy
- Assuming adult responsibilities
- Delinquent or self-destructive behavior
- Alcohol or drug use

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING HOTLINE:

KANSAS: 1.800.922.5330

MISSOURI: 1.800.392.3738

MISSOURI (calling from out of state): 573.751.3448



info@sunflowerhouse.org



www.sunflowerhouse.org



913.631.5800



@sunflower_house



facebook.com/SunflowerHouse