



INDICATORS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

All New Jersey residents are mandated reporters, meaning that by law anyone with a reasonable suspicion that a child has been abused or neglected is required to report it to authorities immediately. A concerned caller does not need proof to report an allegation of child abuse and can make the report anonymously. If you have a suspicion, call the New Jersey Child Abuse Hotline. The Hotline is open 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

New Jersey Child Abuse Hotline
1-877-NJ ABUSE
1-877-652-2873

Physical Neglect

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Consistent hunger, poor hygiene, inappropriate dress. Consistent lack of supervision, especially in dangerous activities or long periods. Constant fatigue or listlessness. Unattended physical problems or medical needs. Abandonment.	Begging, stealing food. Extended stays at school (early arrival and late departure). Constantly falling asleep in class. Alcohol or drug abuse. Delinquency (e.g. thefts). States there is no caregiver.

Physical Abuse

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<p>Unexplained bruises and welts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On face, lips, mouth. • On torso, back, buttocks, thighs. • In various stages of healing. • Cluster, forming regular patterns. • Reflecting shape of article used to inflict (electric cord, belt buckle). • On several different surface areas. • Regularly appear after absence, weekend or vacation. <p>Unexplained burns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cigar, cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms, back or buttocks. • Immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like doughnut shaped on buttocks or genitalia). • Patterned like electric burner, iron, etc. • Rope burns on arms, legs, neck or torso. <p>Unexplained fractures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To skull, nose, facial structure. • In various stages of healing. • Multiple or spiral fractures. <p>Unexplained laceration or abrasions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mouth, lips, gums, eyes. • To external genitalia. 	<p>Wary of adult contact. Apprehensive when other children cry.</p> <p>Behavioral extremes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggressiveness • Withdrawal <p>Frightened of parents. Afraid to go home. Reports injury by parents.</p>

Sexual Abuse

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<p>Difficulty in walking or sitting. Torn, stained or bloody underclothing. Pain or itching in genital area. Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia, vaginal or anal areas. Venereal disease, especially in pre-teens Pregnancy.</p>	<p>Unwilling to change for gym or participate in PE. Withdrawn, fantasy or infantile behavior. Bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge. Poor peer relationships. Delinquent or run away. Reports sexual assault by caregiver.</p>

Emotional/Psychological Abuse

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<p>Habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking, etc.) Conduct disorders (antisocial, destructible, etc.) Neurotic traits (sleep disorders, speech disorders, inhibition of play)</p>	<p>Behavior extremes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant, passive • Aggressive, demanding <p>Overly adoptive behavior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriately adult • Inappropriately infant