



Child Abuse & Neglect



Reporting Requirements

- Everyone is legally obligated to report
- Professional Reporter
 - Includes ECI employees
 - Licensed or certified by the state
 - Has contact with children as a result of normal duties
 - Required to report within 48 hours
- DFPS investigates
- Immune from civil or criminal liability

What is Abuse?

- Physical Abuse
 - Physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child.
- Sexual Abuse
 - Sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare.
- Emotional Abuse
 - An action that results in a marked impact on a child's growth, development, or psychological functioning.



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_protection/

Signs of Physical Abuse

- Frequent injuries
- Frequent complaints of pain
- Burns or bruises in unusual patterns
- Aggressive, disruptive, and destructive behavior
- Passive, withdrawn, and emotionless
- Fear of going home
- Injuries after not being seen for several days
- Unreasonable clothing
- Lack of reaction to pain

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Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Physical signs of STDs
- Evidence of injury
- Pregnancy in a young girl
- Difficulty in sitting or walking
- Extreme fear of certain adults
- Sexual comments, behaviors or play
- Knowledge of sexual relations
- Sexual victimization of other children

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Signs of Emotional Abuse



- Over compliance
- Low self-esteem
- Severe depression, anxiety, or aggression
- Difficulty making friends
- Lagging in development
- Caregiver's behaviors

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What is Neglect?



- Neglectful Supervision
- Medical Neglect
- Physical Neglect
- Abandonment & Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibilities
- Failing to protect a child

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Signs of Neglect

- Obvious malnourishment
- Lack of personal cleanliness
- Torn or dirty clothing
- Stealing or begging for food
- Child unattended
- Need for medical attention



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Scenario #1

Allen is an only child living at home with his mom. While at an SST visit, Allen's mom informs you she is going through a hard breakup and thinks she has been drunk for a solid week. You notice 4 empty wine bottles sitting next to the sink and she is currently sipping a glass of wine. His 18 month well child check is later today.



What would you do?

Scenario #2

Maria's outcome involves potty training. Maria indicates she needs to go potty, so dad and you rush her into the bathroom. You notice a couple of syringes on the bathroom counter, out of Maria's reach.

What would you do?

Scenario #3

Teddy was recently diagnosed with diabetes. His parents state they have not been administering the injections or checking blood sugar because they do not like to cause Teddy pain. If he seems lethargic, they give him juice or a piece of candy.



What would you do?

- To report:
 - Call 1-800-252-5400
 - www.txabusehotline.org
 - Call 9-1-1 or local law enforcement in emergency situations
- Discuss process with supervisor or director



Reporting Procedures

Additional Training...

Coming up...

- October 3, 11:00 – 12:00
Topic 4: Boundaries and Professionalism

Archived Webinar...

- Ethics in ECI: Waste, Fraud and Abuse
- Recognizing, Reporting and Preventing Child Abuse

