

**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
WHAT ARE SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?**

**Physical and Behavioral Indicators of Physical Abuse:**

- Unexplained bruises of various color, size, and in various locations
- Bruises in areas not normally subjected to bruising, such as on the face, non-bony areas of the arms, legs, and/or torso
- Welts, human bites, bald spots
- Unexplained burns, especially cigarette burns or scald burns
- Unexplained fractures, injuries or abrasions
- Child is nervous, hyperactive, aggressive, and exhibits disruptive and destructive behaviors
- Child is unusually wary of physical contact
- Child is unduly frightened of parent or caretaker
- Child expresses little or no emotion when hurt
- Child is unusually shy, withdrawn, or passive
- Child's clothing consistently inappropriate for weather

**Physical and Behavioral Indicators of Sexual Abuse:**

- Irritation around the genitals or rectum, or an abnormal discharge
- Unexplained, recurring urinary tract infections or yeast infections
- Increased, obsessive masturbation
- Enuresis and encopresis (wetting and soiling)
- Play activities which have sexual activity that is not appropriate for the child's age
- Engages in on-going sexual activity that is not appropriate for the child's age
- Child has detailed and sophisticated understanding of sexual behaviors
- Presence of venereal disease
- Child exhibits delinquent or aggressive behavior or excessive temper tantrums
- Child shows signs of depression
- Compulsive stealing, lying, and destructive behaviors
- Child displays self-injurious behaviors like substance abuse, self mutilation, attempts suicide, prostitution and running away

**Physical and Behavioral Indicators of Child Neglect:**

- Abandonment by parent or caregiver
- Unattended medical needs
- Consistent lack of or inadequate supervision
- Consistent hunger, inappropriate dress, poor hygiene
- Exposure to injurious environment such as domestic violence, alcohol or drug abuse, mental illness
- Child has poor social skills
- Child appears pale, listless
- Child begs or steals food
- Frequent school absences
- Child regularly displays fatigue
- Child exhibits self destructive behavior
- Child has injuries or fears stemming from home environment
- Child frequently displays extreme attention-seeking behavior