**Know the Warning Signs of Child Abuse & Neglect**

Provided Courtesy of BaiDos Project Management & Human Resource Assistance

[**www.baidos.net**](http://www.baidos.net)

*April traditionally is Child Abuse Prevention Month*

Child abuse and neglect crosses all boundaries – social, economic, racial and religious. This resource[[1]](#footnote-1) is provided by *BaiDos Project Management and Human Resource Assistance.* Know the warning signs so that together we can protect all children, each being a gift from God.

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| --- | --- |
| ***Signs of Neglect*** | Consider the possibility of neglect when the **child:**   * Is frequently absent from school * Begs or steals food or money * Lacks needed medical or dental care, immunizations, or glasses * Is consistently dirty and has severe body odor * Lacks sufficient clothing for the weather * Abuses alcohol or other drugs * States that there is no one at home to provide care   Consider the possibility of neglect when the **parent or other adult caregiver:**   * Appears to be indifferent to the child * Seems apathetic or depressed * Behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manner * Is abusing alcohol or other drugs |
| ***Signs of Sexual Abuse*** | Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the **child**:   * Has difficulty walking or sitting * Suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities * Reports nightmares or bedwetting * Experiences a sudden change in appetite * Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior * Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age 14 * Runs away * Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver * Attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in their environment   Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the **parent or other adult caregiver:**   * Is unduly protective of the child or severely limits the child’s contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex * Is secretive and isolated * Is jealous or controlling with family members |
| ***Signs of Emotional Maltreatment*** | Consider the possibility of emotional maltreatment when the **child:**   * Shows extremes in behavior, such as overly compliant or demanding behavior, extreme passivity, or aggression * Is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children, for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging, for example) * Is delayed in physical or emotional development * Has attempted suicide * Reports a lack of attachment to the parent   Consider the possibility of emotional maltreatment when the **parent or other adult caregiver:**   * Constantly blames, belittles, or berates the child * Is unconcerned about the child and refuses to consider offers of help for the child’s problems * Overtly rejects the child |

*Prepared by Mary Ann Hvizdos, Ph.D.*

*April, 2015*

**To Report Suspected Abuse**

**Pennsylvania**

Toll-Free: (800) 932-0313

(Answers 24 hours/day)

TDD: (866) 872-1677

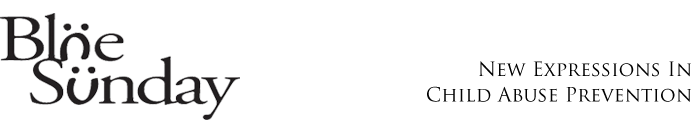
[http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/forchildren/childwelfareservices/calltoreportchildabuse!/index.htm](https://www.childwelfare.gov/survey/?target=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dpw.state.pa.us%2Fforchildren%2Fchildwelfareservices%2Fcalltoreportchildabuse!%2Findex.htm&referrer='https://www.childwelfare.gov/organizations/?CWIGFunctionsaction=rols:main.dspROL&rolType=custom&rs_id=5')[external link](https://www.childwelfare.gov/disclaimer/)

**National Toll Free Number**

Childhelp USA, 800-4-A-CHILD (800-422-4453)

***National Blue Sunday Day of Prayer for Abused Children is sponsored annually by the***

***Nonprofit faith-based organization***



1. This information is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Information Gateway. Please visit <https://www.childwelfare.gov/> for additional resources. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)