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

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**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')

**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)