

CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse is defined as doing or failing to do something that results in harm or risk of harm to a child

Four types of abuse:

- 1. Physical abuse:** Physical abuse is defined by physical injury that results in substantial harm to a child or the genuine threat of substantial harm from physical injury to the child
- 2. Sexual abuse:** Sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional or physical welfare, including conduct that constitutes the offense of indecency with a child, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault
- 3. Neglect:** Leaving the child in a situation where the child would be exposed to a substantial risk of physical or mental harm and failing to arrange the necessary care for the child
- 4. Emotional abuse:** Inflicting mental or emotional injury to a child and/or causing or permitting the child to be in a situation in which the child sustains a mental or emotional injury

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Signs and symptoms of the four types of abuse:

1. Physical

- Unexplained changes in the child's body or behavior or regression to earlier developmental stages
- Wears clothing inappropriate to the season or weather to cover injuries (i.e. long-sleeved shirts in hot temperatures)
- Appears to be afraid of adults

2. Emotional

- Behavioral changes
- Lack of attachment to parent
- Excessively withdrawn, fearful or anxious about doing something wrong

3. Sexual

- Extreme sexual behavior that seems inappropriate for child's age
- Sexually acting out on other children
- Refusal to change for physical activities

4. Neglect

- Consistently poor hygiene
- Frequently absent from school
- Theft of money for food

Resources:

- Yale Child Sexual Abuse Clinic:
203-688-2392 1 Long Wharf Dr., Suite 130
New Haven, CT
- DCF New Haven: 203-786-0500
1 Long Wharf Dr., Suite 227, New Haven, CT