

# CHILD PROTECTION

**Dial Triple Zero (000)  
for an Ambulance**

## CHILD ABUSE INDICATORS

|                        |                          | Physical  | Sexual  | Emotional   | Neglect  |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Behavioural indicators | The carer may see.....   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruising or burns in a shape or pattern (eg belt buckle, irons, fingers, cigarettes)</li> <li>Injuries in various stages of healing</li> <li>Repeated injuries over time</li> <li>Bruising to head and face</li> <li>Bite marks, welts, burns</li> <li>Bald patches on head</li> <li>Fractures or injuries in children who are not yet mobile</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injury, infection or inflammation to the genital area</li> <li>Discomfort going to the toilet</li> <li>Presence of foreign bodies in the genitals</li> <li>Sexually transmitted infections</li> <li>Bruising or injury to breast area, buttocks or thighs</li> <li>Anxiety related illnesses</li> <li>Frequent urinary tract infections</li> <li>Start to wet or soil the bed</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delay in development</li> <li>Failure to thrive</li> <li>Failure to gain weight</li> <li>Bed-wetting</li> <li>Diarrhoea</li> </ul>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unattended medical and dental needs</li> <li>Chronic untreated head lice</li> <li>Chronic nappy rash</li> <li>Consistent lack of supervision</li> <li>Inappropriate dress for weather</li> <li>Not enough food supplied</li> <li>Poor nutritional value in food supplied</li> <li>Delay in development</li> </ul> |
|                        | The child may say...     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlikely or differing stories of how an injury occurred</li> <li>"Someone hurt me" (perhaps a parent or carer)</li> <li>"I don't want to go home"</li> <li>"I don't want to go with that person"</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details about the abuse</li> <li>That they have night mares or can't sleep</li> <li>That they don't like a particular person</li> <li>"I want to run away from home"</li> <li>"I'm not hungry" - frequently</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"I am no good"</li> <li>That someone says they are "bad"</li> <li>Mimics what was said to them, to others</li> </ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"I was scared last night on my own"</li> <li>"I have no friends"</li> <li>"No-one wants to play with me"</li> <li>Not much at all</li> </ul>  |
|                        | The child may be...      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequently absent</li> <li>Wary of adults and watchful</li> <li>Overly compliant</li> <li>Shy, withdrawn, vacant</li> <li>Passive and uncommunicative</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessively dependent</li> <li>Lacks trust in others</li> <li>Promiscuous</li> <li>Reluctant to participate activities</li> <li>Fearful or startled when touched</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overly compliant</li> <li>Extremely demanding</li> <li>Always wanting attention</li> <li>Fearful of consequences - leads to lying</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constantly demanding attention</li> <li>Begging for or stealing food</li> <li>Alienated from peers (poor social skills)</li> <li>Constantly tired, hungry and listless</li> </ul>   |
|                        | The child may display... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flinching if touched</li> <li>Unusual nervousness</li> <li>Hyperactivity</li> <li>Aggressive, disruptive or destructive behaviour</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor personal hygiene</li> <li>Scratching or handling of genital region</li> <li>Advanced sexual knowledge</li> <li>Playing games that echo the abuse</li> <li>Aggressive behaviour</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor peer relationships</li> <li>Signs of depression</li> <li>Inappropriate behaviour for age</li> <li>Aggressive behaviour</li> </ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begging for or stealing food</li> <li>Behaviour that takes on an adult role</li> <li>Irregular or non-attendance</li> </ul>   |