

GENERAL WARNING SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE

- Behavior changes – fear, anxiety, depression, withdrawal, aggression, not wanting to go home or go to a certain person's house, appearing withdrawn, afraid or nervous around certain individuals
- Overly sexualized behavior
- Use of explicit sexual language that's age inappropriate
- Changes in sleep patterns including frequent nightmares, difficulty falling or staying asleep
- Changes in school/sports performance and attendance; unable to concentrate or frequent absences and excuses to skip these things; grades deteriorate
- Reluctance to leave school or activities and go home
- Sudden loss of self-confidence, self-esteem
- Rebellious or defiant behavior not previously exhibited
- Unusual eating habits that lead to extreme weight gain or weight loss
- Unexplained injuries such as bruises, welts, bumps, or broken bones
- Trouble walking, sitting, running, or doing normal activities
- Sudden interest and use of drugs and alcohol
- Attempt to run away or escape
- Suicide attempts

SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Unexplained injuries such as bruises, welts, bumps, fractures, burns or broken bones
- Injuries that don't match explanations
- Injuries that are left untreated – medical and dental

SIGNS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- Use of explicit sexual language that is age inappropriate
- Oversexualized behavior or sexual interest that is inappropriate to the child's age
- Infections, sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy
- Trouble walking, sitting, running, or doing normal activities
- Genital pain
- Blood in the child's underwear
- Abusing other children (sexually)

SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Loss of self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-image
- Delayed emotional development

- Social withdrawal or loss of interest/enthusiasm for things they previously enjoyed
- Symptoms such as headaches, stomachaches, pain without any medical cause
- Desperately seeks affection and love
- Attempts to run away or escape
- Decrease or complete loss in academics, sports, and outside interests

SIGNS OF NEGLECT

- Poor hygiene
- Poor growth/weight gain
- Lack of adequate clothing / supplies to meet the child's needs (shoes are wrong size, holes in clothing, not weather appropriate)
- Taking/stealing food, money, or other's things without permission
- Hiding food for later
- Poor school attendance
- Emotional and physical outbursts that are out of context or inappropriate
- Obvious lack of medical, dental or psychological care