

CHILD PROTECTION

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

CHILD ABUSE INDICATORS

Physical indicators	The carer may see.....	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Neglect
		- Bruising or burns in a shape or pattern (eg belt buckle, irons, fingers, cigarettes) - Injuries in various stages of healing - Repeated injuries over time - Bruising to head and face - Bite marks, welts, burns - Bald patches on head - Fractures or injuries in children who are not yet mobile	- Injury, infection or inflammation to the genital area - Discomfort going to the toilet - Presence of foreign bodies in the genitals - Sexually transmitted infections - Bruising or injury to breast area, buttocks or thighs - Anxiety related illnesses - Frequent urinary tract infections - Start to wet or soil the bed	- Delay in development - Failure to thrive - Failure to gain weight - Bed-wetting - Diarrhoea	- Unattended medical and dental needs - Chronic untreated head lice - Chronic nappy rash - Consistent lack of supervision - Inappropriate dress for weather - Not enough food supplied - Poor nutritional value in food supplied - Delay in development
Behavioural indicators	The child may say...	- Unlikely or differing stories of how an injury occurred "Someone hurt me" (perhaps a parent or carer) "I don't want to go home" "I don't want to go with that person"	- Details about the abuse - That they have night mares or can't sleep - That they don't like a particular person "I want to run away from home" "I'm not hungry" - frequently	"I am no good" - That someone says they are "bad" - Mimics what was said to them, to others	"I was scared last night on my own" "I have no friends" "No-one wants to play with me" - Not much at all
	The child may be...	- Frequently absent - Wary of adults and watchful - Overly compliant - Shy, withdrawn, vacant - Passive and uncommunicative	- Excessively dependent - Lacks trust in others - Promiscuous - Reluctant to participate activities - Fearful or startled when touched	- Overly compliant - Extremely demanding - Always wanting attention - Fearful of consequences - leads to lying	- Constantly demanding attention - Begging for or stealing food - Alienated from peers (poor social skills) - Constantly tired, hungry and listless
	The child may display...	- Flinching if touched - Unusual nervousness - Hyperactivity - Aggressive, disruptive or destructive behaviour	- Poor personal hygiene - Scratching or handling of genital region - Advanced sexual knowledge - Playing games that echo the abuse - Aggressive behaviour	- Poor peer relationships - Signs of depression - Inappropriate behaviour for age - Aggressive behaviour	- Begging for or stealing food - Behaviour that takes on an adult role - Irregular or non-attendance