

# Indicators of Child Maltreatment

## PHYSICAL ABUSE

Bruises or welts on face, lips, mouth, torso, back, buttocks, and thighs

Bruises with a specific shape

Lacerations to mouth, lips, back, or buttocks

Linear marks resembling fingers, a belt, cord, or other item

Burns from cigarettes, cigars

Fractures to skull, nose, face; spiral fractures

Human bite marks

Any injury that does not fit the explanation provided

## NEGLECT

Always hungry, distended stomach, emaciated

Inappropriate clothing for weather

Lack of socks, underwear, etc.

Poor hygiene, habitually unwashed

Lack of housing

Abandonment

Lack of age-appropriate supervision

Lack of supervision while child is engaging in dangerous activities

Chronically tired and/or listless

Chronic unattended physical health/medical issues

Not attending school

Non-organic failure to thrive

Children may display other signs or behaviors suggestive of maltreatment that are not included in this list. When in doubt, report it!

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## EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT

Shows extremes in behaviors (overly compliant or demanding behaviors, extreme passivity or aggression)

Exhibits inappropriate adult behavior (parenting other children) or non-age appropriate infantile behavior (rocking, head-banging)

Delayed in physical or emotional development

Witnesses domestic violence

Self harm/suicide attempts

## SEXUAL ABUSE

Difficulty walking or sitting

Sudden refusal to change for gym or participate in physical activities

Reports of nightmares and/or bedwetting

Sudden changes in appetite

Demonstrates unusual sexual knowledge or behavior for age

Discloses seeing or someone taking sexually explicit photographs, videos, etc.

Disclosure of sexual abuse/acts by parent or another adult/older caretaker

**Ohio Revised Code 2151.421 requires that mandated reporters acting in their official capacity immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect to the county Children Services agency or law enforcement.**

**TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND  
NEGLECT IN LAKE COUNTY, CALL  
(440) 350-4000, press 1**

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