

PRO-ACTIVE STRATEGIES

If a child discloses to you, DO:

- ✦ Remain calm and have someone continually present.
- ✦ Reassure the child that he/she has done the right thing by telling someone.
- ✦ Remember any concrete information.
- ✦ Reassure your support for him/her.
- ✦ Inform them of the law to report abuse to someone who has helped children and families in similar situations.
- ✦ Report the incident to the proper authorities immediately.

If a child discloses to you, DO NOT:

- ✦ Promise confidentiality.
- ✦ Express panic or shock in reaction or expression.
- ✦ Ask questions, dig for detail, make suggestions, or investigate.
- ✦ Make negative comments about the perpetrator.
- ✦ Disclose the information indiscriminately. Tell only those who need the information to protect the child.
- ✦ Make judgments.
- ✦ Rush or interrupt the child.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Guidelines For Reporting

- ✦ If you suspect child abuse, immediately report to law enforcement or human services.
- ✦ Do not notify parents of investigations involving intra-familial abuse. (occurs within a family context)

Report the following to Human Services:

303-663-6270
1-844-CO-4-Kids

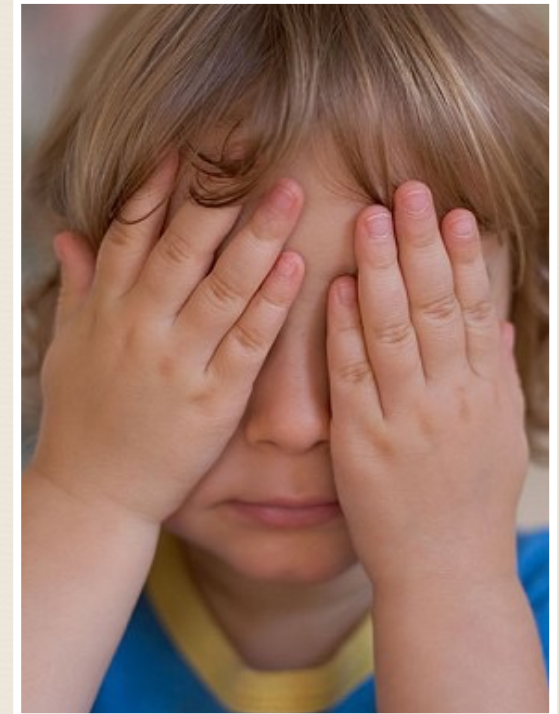
- ✦ A case involving intra-familial abuse where the child is not in immediate danger or in need of immediate intervention.
- ✦ A case involving suspected lack of parental supervision that will probably not result in criminal charges being filed.

Report the following to Law Enforcement:

303-660-7500

- ✦ A case where the child is in imminent danger and immediate intervention is necessary.
- ✦ When a delay in investigation could place the child at risk for further abuse.
- ✦ Any case that arises outside normal business hours.
- ✦ Any case involving 3rd party abuse.

MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT



Any person who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or who has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately report to law enforcement or human services.



SIGNS OF ABUSE

Investigation is the job of child protective services or law enforcement.

CONSIDER PHYSICAL ABUSE WHEN THE CHILD:

- Has unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes
- Seems frightened of the parents and protests or cries when it is time to go home
- Shrinks at the approach of adults
- Reports injury by a parent or another adult caregiver
- Abuses animals or pets

CONSIDER PHYSICAL ABUSE WHEN THE CARETAKER:

- Offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no explanation for the child's injury, or provides an explanation that is not consistent with the injury
- Describes the child as "evil" or in some other very negative way
- Uses harsh physical discipline with the child
- Has a history of abuse as a child
- Has a history of abusing animals or pets

SIGNS THAT CHILDREN MIGHT BE AT RISK ONLINE:

- Child spends large amounts of time on-line, especially at night
- Pornography found on child's computer
- Child receives phone calls from people you don't know
- Child is making calls, sometimes long distance, to unrecognizable numbers
- Child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know
- Child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when you come into the room
- Child becomes withdrawn from their family
- Child is using an on-line account belonging to someone else

CONSIDER SEXUAL ABUSE WHEN THE CHILD:

- Has difficulty walking or sitting
- Suddenly refuses to participate in physical activities
- Reports nightmares or bedwetting
- Experiences a sudden change in appetite
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age 14
- Runs away
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver
- Attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in their environment

CONSIDER SEXUAL ABUSE WHEN THE CARETAKER:

- Is unduly protective of the child or severely limits the child's contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex
- Is secretive and isolated
- Is jealous or controlling with family members

CONSIDER EMOTIONAL ABUSE WHEN THE CHILD:

- Shows extremes in behavior, such as overly compliant or demanding behavior, extreme passivity, or aggression
- Is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children, for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging, for example)
- Is delayed in physical or emotional development
- Has attempted suicide
- Reports a lack of attachment to the parent

CONSIDER EMOTIONAL ABUSE WHEN THE CARETAKER:

- Constantly blames, belittles, or berates the child
- Is unconcerned about the child and refuses to consider offers of help for the child's problems
- Overtly rejects the child

CONSIDER NEGLECT WHEN THE CHILD:

- Wears soiled clothing or clothing that is significantly too small or large, or is often in need of repair
- Seems inadequately dressed for the weather
- Always seems to be hungry; hoards, steals, or begs for food or comes to church activities with little food
- Often appears listless and tired with little energy
- Frequently reports caring for younger siblings
- Demonstrates poor hygiene, smells of urine or feces, or has dirty or decaying teeth
- Seems emaciated or has a distended stomach (indicative of malnutrition)
- Has unattended medical or dental problems, such as infected sores
- States that there is no one at home to provide care
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver
- Attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in their environment