

FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE



Neglect:

Deprivation by a caretaker of goods or services necessary to maintain physical and/or mental health. (PC 11165.2) The term neglect includes both acts and omissions harming or threatening to harm a child's health or welfare. Examples include failure to provide adequate food, clothing, medical care or supervision for a child.

Physical Abuse:

Acts of violence and/or physical injury not inflicted by accident (PC 11165.6). Willful cruelty or unjustified punishment including inflicting or permitting unjustifiable physical pain or the endangerment of a child's person or health (P.C. 11165.3).

Unlawful corporal punishment, willfully inflicted, resulting in a traumatic condition or injury (P.C. 11165.4).

Examples include hitting, punching, kicking, choking, biting, dragging, restraining, confining, assaulting, or threatening with weapons or objects.

Sexual Abuse:

Any sexual assault, harassment or exploitation of a child (P.C. 11165.1). This includes an adult engaging in **any** sexual activity with a minor, including inappropriate touching, pressure to perform sexual acts, and/or degrading comments about a child's body or sexuality. *Sexual assault* includes sex acts with a child, lewd or lascivious acts with a child, intentional masturbation in the presence of a child and child molestation. *Sexual exploitation* includes preparing, selling or distributing pornographic materials involving children, employing a minor to perform in pornography and employing or coercing a child to engage in prostitution.

Emotional Abuse:

Verbal or psychological exertion of power to frighten, intimidate, threaten, isolate, harass, berate, humiliate, disempower or destabilize a child. Some signs include making the child feel "crazy," blaming him or her for the abuser's behaviors, minimizing or denying incidents of abuse, destroying personal belongings, frequent criticism, or isolation of the child from support systems such as friends/family/school.

Spiritual Abuse:

A type of emotional mistreatment where spiritual practices are used to justify control over a child (not a concern of law enforcement). Examples include using or misinterpreting sacred texts to justify abuse, and invalidating or mocking the child's valued and/or spiritual beliefs.