



## SIGNS A CHILD IS NOT SAFE

**Learning the signs of abuse and neglect empowers adults to speak up for kids**

### Physical Abuse

- Child appears frightened of the caregiver.
- Child has burns, bites, broken bones, bruising, black eyes, or complains of pain.
- Caregiver offers no/odd explanation of a child's injury. Does the story match the injury?

### Online Abuse

- Unexplained gifts, money, game subscriptions
- Child presents themselves as older online.
- Child sends revealing photos or videos of oneself.
- Child becomes secretive: minimizing screens or hiding devices.

### Sexual Abuse

- Non-biological, transient caregivers in the home (a live in partner).
- Difficulty walking or sitting.
- Child attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in their environment.
- Witnessing an adult inappropriately touching or saying sexual things to/with a child; exposing a child to pornography.
- Demonstrates unusual sexual knowledge or behavior for their age.
- Nightmares and/or bed wetting

### Emotional Abuse

- Caregiver consistently belittles or berates the child and refuses to help the child when needed.
- Child shows extremes in behavior: overly aggressive or compliant.
- Appears emotionally unattached to caregiver and others.

### Neglect

- Child begs or steals food and/or has severe consistent poor hygiene.
- Caregiver is abusing alcohol or other drugs.
- Caregiver mental health concerns: unable to provide for child's basic needs.
- Highly stressful family situations
- Unlocked weapons or guns in the home

### Pay close attention to children who:

- Take care of other children and/or have limited support systems.
- Require assistance due to physical, mental, behavioral or medical disabilities or delays.
- Live in a home with domestic violence.

### Trust Your Gut

**If something does not look safe, sound safe, or feel safe – report.**



### Where To Report

Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline  
**1-800-392-3738 or 1-844-CAN-TELL**  
Child in immediate danger, call 911.

**REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.**