



# St. Clair County

## Child Abuse and Neglect Council

"It shouldn't hurt to be a child".



## Report Abuse

### Learning to recognize the signs child abuse and neglect can make a huge difference in a child's life.

**Physical Neglect:** A pattern of failing to provide for a child's basic needs such as food, clothing, hygiene or supervision. *Warning signs of physical neglect include:*

- Clothing is ill-fitting, filthy or inappropriate for weather, consistently bad hygiene (unbathed, dirty cloths)
- Untreated illnesses and physical injuries
- Frequently unsupervised, left alone, or allowed to play in unsafe situations and environments
- Frequently late to or missing from school
- Begs for or steals food or money
- States there is no one at home to provide care

**Physical Abuse:** Non-accidental physical harm or injury to a child. *Warning signs of physical abuse include:*

- Frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts or cuts
- Shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements
- Seems afraid to go home
- Wears inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries
- Sudden changes in behavior or school performance

**Sexual Abuse:** Engaging in sexual contact or sexual penetration, including permitting or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution or photographing, filming or depicting a child engaged in a sexual act. *Warning signs of sexual abuse include:*

- Trouble walking or sitting, doesn't want to change clothes in front of others
- Displays knowledge of or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to age or engages in seductive behaviors
- Sudden change in appetite
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age 12
- Runs away from home

**Emotional Abuse/Maltreatment:** Severe damage to mental health or social development, leaving lifelong psychological scars; name calling; telling a child he is no good, worthless, bad or a mistake; ignoring or rejecting a child. *Warning signs of emotional abuse/maltreatment include:*

- Extreme behavior (aggressive, compliant or passive)
- Lack of attachment to parent
- Delayed development, infantile behavior