

**NWC EMSS Policy Manual Appendix**  
**Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect**

CATEGORY	CHILD'S APPEARANCE	CHILD'S BEHAVIOR	CARETAKER'S BEHAVIOR
<b>Physical abuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unexplained injuries, especially those located on parts of the body not usually affected by normal childhood activities, i.e., eyes, mouth, lips, gums, back, thighs, buttocks, genital areas.</li> <li>Repeated injuries such as bruises, welts, or burns. Bruises and welts in various stages of healing; on large areas of the torso, back, buttocks, or thigh; in unusual patterns, clustered, or reflective of the instrument used to inflict them; on several different surface areas.</li> <li>Small circular burns (cigar or cigarette) often found on forearms, hands, buttocks, or soles of the feet; glove or sock-like burns of the feet or doughnut shaped burns on the buttocks or genitalia indicative of immersion in hot liquid; burns caused by friction, usually found on arms, neck, legs or torso indicating a rope or cord may have been used to tie up the victim; patterned burns that show the shape of the item (iron, grill) used to inflict them.</li> <li>Unexplained fractures (skull, jaw, nose, face, ribs, legs, arms); spiral fractures of the long bones; fractures in various stages of healing; multiple fractures; any fracture in a child &lt; two.</li> <li>Human bite marks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wary of physical contact with adults.</li> <li>Apprehensive when other children cry.</li> <li>Demonstrates extremes in behavior, i.e. extremely hyperactive, disruptive or aggressive or complacent, shy, withdrawn, or uncommunicative.</li> <li>Seems frightened of parents.</li> <li>Reports injury by parents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a history of abuse as a child.</li> <li>Uses harsh discipline inappropriate to child's age, transgression and condition.</li> <li>Offers illogical, unconvincing, contradictory or no explanation of child's injury.</li> <li>Seems unconcerned about child.</li> <li>Significantly misperceives child, i.e., sees him as bad, evil, or a monster.</li> <li>Psychotic or psychopathic.</li> <li>Misuses alcohol or other drugs.</li> <li>Attempts to conceal child's injury or protect identity of person responsible.</li> <li>Denial by parents that anything is wrong, unlikely explanation for the child's injuries, delays in obtaining medical care or inadequate care given.</li> </ul>
<b>Neglect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistently dirty, unwashed, hungry, or inadequately clothed.</li> <li>Appears poorly nourished.</li> <li>Without supervision for extended periods of time or placed in dangerous situations.</li> <li>Constantly tired or listless.</li> <li>Either a consistent lack of good hygiene, or an obsession with cleanliness.</li> <li>Has unattended physical problems or lacks routine medical care.</li> <li>Is exploited, overworked, or kept from attending school.</li> <li>Has been abandoned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is engaging in delinquent acts, i.e., vandalism, drinking, prostitution, drug uses, etc.</li> <li>Is begging or stealing food.</li> <li>Rarely attends school.</li> <li>Displays an inability to relate well to adults or has trouble forming close friendships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Misuses alcohol or other drugs.</li> <li>Maintains chaotic home life.</li> <li>Shows evidence of apathy or futility.</li> <li>Is mentally ill or of diminished intelligence.</li> <li>Has long-term chronic illness.</li> <li>Has history of neglect as a child.</li> </ul>
<b>Sexual abuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has torn, stained, or bloody underclothing.</li> <li>Experiences pain or itching in the genital area.</li> <li>Has sexually transmittable disease.</li> <li>Has swollen or red cervix, vulva.</li> <li>Has semen around mouth or genitalia or on clothing.</li> <li>Is pregnant.</li> <li>DO NOT deny the problem. Control your emotions and believe the child until investigation complete.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appears withdrawn or engages in fantasy or infantile behavior.</li> <li>Has poor peer relations.</li> <li>Is unwilling to participate in physical activities.</li> <li>Is engaging in delinquent acts or runs away.</li> <li>States he/she has been sexually abused by parent/caretaker.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extremely protective or jealous of child.</li> <li>Encourages child to engage in prostitution or sexual acts in the presence of caretaker.</li> <li>Has been sexually abused as a child.</li> <li>Is experiencing marital difficulties.</li> <li>Misuses alcohol or other drugs.</li> <li>Is frequently absent from the home.</li> </ul>
<b>Emotional maltreatment</b> Most difficult to verify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emotional maltreatment, often less tangible than other forms of abuse and neglect, can be indicated by behaviors of the child and the caretaker.</li> <li>Includes verbal assaults and the withholding of positive emotional support.</li> <li>"Hit" everyday with words which are demeaning, shaming, threatening, blaming, intimidating, unfairly critical, or sarcastic.</li> <li>Attempts suicide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appears defensive, shy, overly dependent or compliant, passive, and undemanding.</li> <li>Shows overly adaptive behaviors, either inappropriately adult or infantile.</li> <li>Displays patterned behavior that is extreme, i.e., lying, stealing, fighting, or is overly aggressive, demanding, rageful and acts out.</li> <li>May be verbally abusive to others, using the same language he or she has experienced.</li> <li>Lags in physical, emotional, and intellectual development. Carry a sense of inadequacy and worthlessness into adulthood.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blames or belittles child.</li> <li>Is cold and rejecting.</li> <li>Withholds love.</li> <li>Treats siblings unequally.</li> <li>Seems unconcerned about child's problems.</li> </ul>