

Signs of an Abused Child

**Updated Florida Statutes:
“Any Person” Who Suspects Child
Abuse is a Mandated Reporter**

Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver or other person responsible for the child’s welfare shall report immediately such knowledge or suspicion to the central abuse hotline of the Department of Children and Families.

Florida Statutes; Chapter 39

Physical Abuse

- Bruises
- Welts
- Bite Marks
- Burns (*under clothes/back of legs, feet*)
- Abrasions

Physical Neglect

- Unattended Medical Needs
- Exhaustion
- Lack of Supervision
- Consistent Hunger
- Poor Hygiene
- Emaciated Appearance

Sexual Abuse

- Verbal cues from the child
- Inappropriate Sexualized Behavior
- Pain in Genital Area
- There are usually no physical symptoms as child sexual abuse is not a violent act, but rather an on-going process with someone the child knows.

Emotional Abuse

- Development Delays
- Anti-social Behavior
- Destructive Behavior
- Extreme Passive or Aggressive Behavior

Common Findings in Parents of Abused Children

- Do Not Volunteer Explanation for Child’s Injury;
- Contradictory Explanations for Child’s Injury;
- Evasive Answers to Questions;
- Anger Directed at Child for Being Injured;
- Little Concern for Child/Decreased Touching and/or Eye Contact;
- Inappropriate Response to Child Crying; and/or,
- Overprotective/Does Not Allow Adult To Question Child Alone.

**Florida Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-96-ABUSE**

Indications are 1 out of every 30 Children in America are currently being abused.

