



Department of Community & Cultural Affairs



Division of Youth Services
Child Protection Unit
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Saipan, MP 96950
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UNDERSTANDING CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

Presenters:

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MISSION

- Our Ultimate MISSION in our Agency is to protect & Promote the safety, health and well-being of our children in the Commonwealth and to help strengthen and preserve families.



PURPOSE

The purpose of Division of Youth Services is to *plan, coordinate, implement & develop programs and services designed to provide developmental and rehabilitative services to youth and families, including those youths adjudged to be wards of the CNMI court.*

Source: PL 2-19 2 (6), modified

Child Protection is a Unit
under the Division of
Youth Services mandated
by Law to conduct
Assessment and
Investigation on reports of
Child Abuse & Neglect.

LAW ON CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

6 CMC § 5312

A person such as a caretaker or whom the child is under their custody that commits the offense by willfully or intentionally causing physical injuries Or mental well-being of the child are harmed and threatened.

LAW ON CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT CON'T.

- Through willful or neglect act of omission fails to provide adequate supervision, medical care, food clothing or shelter with the result that the child's physical or mental health and wellbeing are harmed or threatened.

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

- *CHILD ABUSE* is harm or risk of harm caused to a child by a parent, caretaker or another person responsible for the child's safety.
- PHYSICAL ABUSE
- NEGLECT
- EMOTIONAL ABUSE
- SEXUAL ABUSE

WHAT IS PHYSICAL ABUSE?

- **PHYSICAL ABUSE** is causing physical injury to a child by punching, kicking, biting, burning or otherwise harming the child.



WHAT IS CHILD NEGLECT?

- NEGLECT is defined as failure to provide for the child's basic needs. Neglect can be PHYSICAL, EDUCATIONAL, EMOTIONAL, & MEDICAL

PHYSICAL NEGLECT

- Lack of health care
- Lack of Food, clothing & Shelter
- Lack of adequate supervision
- Lack of personal cleanliness & good hygiene
- Abandonment



EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT

- Not trying to correct the child when skipping school becomes a problem
- Failure to enroll school-age children, causing them to be absent one month or more.
- Refusal of recommended services without good reason.

Some possible results may cause Children in becoming;

- Withdrawn
- Disruptive
- Underachievement, poor development of basic skills
- Dropping out of school

EMOTIONAL NEGLECT

Is defined as not caring about a Child's feelings and mental health and failing to Provide love, nurture and attention.

- Lack of ATTENTION
- CONDITIONAL LOVE
- ISOLATION

WHAT IS EMOTIONAL ABUSE?

- EMOTIONAL ABUSE is hurting children's feelings by belittling, habitual blaming, constant criticism, threats, and withholding love, support and guidance.

Common types of EMOTIONAL ABUSE;

- ‡ Ridiculed
- ‡ Terrorized
- ‡ Rejection
- ‡ Humiliated
- ‡ Exposed to Domestic Violence

WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE?

- *SEXUAL ABUSE* is sexual contact between an adult and a child. It includes fondling a child's genitals, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy and sexual exploitation.

INDICATORS

PHYSICAL

- ‡ Stained or torn underwear
- ‡ Difficulty in walking
- ‡ Discomfort in the genital area (bruise, swell or bleeding)
- ‡ Difficulty in bowel movement, urinating or swelling
- ‡ Pregnancy
- ‡ Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI's)

BEHAVIORAL

- ‡ Depression, anxiety, fear, anger or mood swings.
- ‡ Nightmares or disturbed sleeping patterns.
- ‡ Fantasy or infantile behavior
- ‡ Poor Peer relationship
- ‡ Withdrawal
- ‡ Changes in School performance
- ‡ Delinquent or Runaway

CAN CHILD ABUSE BE PREVENTED ?

Yes! Child Abuse can be prevented through the efforts of:

SCHOOLS

Schools have a responsibility to report known or suspected child abuse.

NEIGHBORS/FAMILIES

Friends and Family members should reach out to those in need to help relieve dangerous tensions.

COMMUNITY

Special Programs can provide:

- ‡ Education in Parenting skills
- ‡ Day care services
- ‡ Counseling & support

DISCIPLINE vs ABUSE

DISCIPLINE is

an act of
guidance to
correct

Inappropriate
behavior.

ABUSE is

harsh and
unreasonable
violent and
harmful act
towards the
child.

CONTACT #'s

- DIAL 911

IF NOT YOU MAY
CALL;



- DPS 664-9000/1
- DYS 664-2565/2564
- TINIAN 287-3268
- ROTA 287-2553