



# Mandatory Reporting Requirements

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## What Prevention Providers Need to Know



# What is Mandatory Reporting?

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- Mandatory reporting is both a federal and Idaho state law that requires particular individuals to report child abuse and neglect. (42 U.S.C. 5101; Idaho Code §16.1619)
- All 50 states have passed some form of mandatory reporting law.
- Idaho law requires **any person** (not just professionals) who believes that a child is being abused, neglected or abandoned **to report it within 24 hours** to law enforcement or the Department of Health & Welfare. (Idaho Code §16.1619)



# What is Mandatory Reporting?

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- Idaho Substance Abuse Prevention Providers are Mandatory Reporters.
- Reporters of child abuse and neglect are immune from any liability, criminal or civil, for reporting in good faith.
- In Idaho, failure to report child abuse and neglect is a misdemeanor.
- There are some individuals exempt to mandatory reporting (e.g. some ordained ministers, attorney-client privilege) – but these exemptions DO NOT apply to Prevention Providers.



# What is Child Abuse and How is it Recognized?

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- The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) provides information about child abuse and neglect, how to recognize it, and how to report abuse.
- For more information review this IDHW brochure: [Care Enough To Call](#) or continue to the next slide.



# How is Child Abuse and Neglect Defined?

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- Child Abuse Can Mean:
  - Physical Abuse.
  - Failure to Act to Prevent Physical Abuse.
  - Sexual Abuse.
- Child Neglect Can Mean:
  - Abandonment.
  - A child without proper parental care.
  - A child without proper parental control.



# How is Child Abuse and Neglect Defined?

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- Physical abuse
  - Constitutes any injury to a child that is not caused by accidental means.
  - This includes any injury that appears inconsistent with the explanation given.
- Physical neglect
  - Exists when there is failure to provide necessities (food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment).
- Sexual abuse
  - Sexual acts and exploitation of a child.



# How do Prevention Providers Recognize Child Abuse and Neglect?

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- Through:
  - Physical Indicators  
and
  - Behavioral Indicators



# What are some Physical Indicators of Child Abuse?

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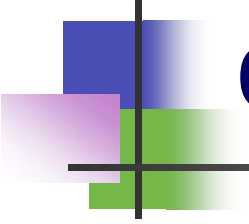
- Unexplained bruises (in various stages of healing), welts, human bite marks, bald spots.
- Unexplained burns, especially cigarette burns or immersion burns.
- Unexplained fractures, lacerations or abrasions.



# What are some Behavioral Indicators of Child Abuse?

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- Self-destructive, withdrawn and aggressive – behavioral extremes.
- Uncomfortable with physical contact.
- Arrives at school early or stays late as if afraid to be at home.
- Complains of soreness or moves uncomfortably.
- Wears clothing inappropriate for weather to cover body.



# What are Physical Indicators of Child Neglect?

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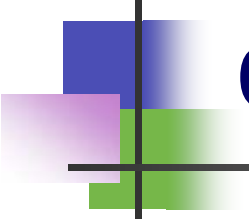
- Abandonment.
- Unattended medical needs.
- Consistent lack of supervision.
- Consistent hunger, distended stomach, weak, pale skin tone.
- Inappropriate dress, untreated lice, poor hygiene.



# What are Behavioral Indicators of Child Neglect?

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- Regularly displays fatigue or listlessness, falls asleep in school class.
- Steals food, begs from school classmates.
- Reports that no caretakers are at home.
- Frequently absent or tardy.
- Self-destructive.



# What are Physical Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse?

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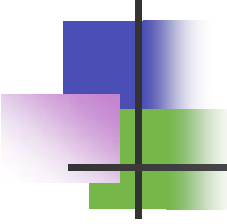
- Often there are no visible indicators, however, here are some things to look for:
  - Torn, stained or bloody underclothing.
  - Pain or itching in genital area.
  - Difficulty walking or sitting.
  - Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia.
  - Venereal disease.
  - Frequent urinary or yeast infections.



# What are Behavioral Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse

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- Withdrawal, chronic depression.
- Excessive Seductiveness.
- Role reversal, overly concerned for siblings.
- Poor self esteem, self devaluation, lack of confidence.
- Peer problems, lack of involvement.
- Weight Change, Eating Disorder.
- Suicide attempts.
- Hysteria, lack of emotional control.
- Sudden school difficulties.
- Chronically runs away.
- Inappropriate sex play or premature understanding of sex.
- Threatened by physical contact.

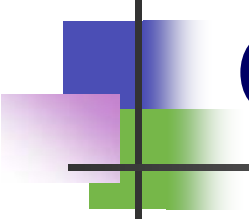


# What are the Do's and Don'ts if a Child Admits to being Abused?

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## ■ **DO:**

- Listen to the child.
- Find a private place to talk.
- Reassure the child he/she has done the right thing by reporting.
- Tell the child help is available.
- Let the child know you must report to someone who can help him/her.
- Report the incident immediately to the Department of Health and Welfare or law enforcement. Their staff is trained in proper interviewing of children.



# What are the Do's and Don'ts if a Child Admits to being Abused?

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## ■ **DON'T:**

- Promise the child you will not tell anyone.
- Panic or express shock to the child.
- Ask the child leading or suggestive questions.
- Make negative comments to the child about the alleged abuser.
- Discuss with anyone except authorities.



# What about Prevention Providers working with Parents ?

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- Some prevention providers work only with parents.
- Prevention providers are obligated to report to law enforcement or the Department of Health and Welfare if they suspect that a parent may be abusing or neglecting their child.



# How do Prevention Providers Report Abuse?

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- Inside Idaho
  - To your local law enforcement agency,
  - To your local IDHW Child Protective Services,
    - A list of local CPS numbers can be located online at: [Child Protective Services Contact List](#), or
  - Idaho CareLine: 800-926-2588



# How do Prevention Providers Report Abuse?

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- Outside Idaho
  - Call [Childhelp](https://www.childhelp.org), 800-4-A-Child (800-422-4453), or
  - Your local Child Protective Service agency



# What if you are not sure what to do?

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- As Prevention Providers, you may not always be sure whether a child is being abused or neglected.
  - When in doubt – REPORT!
  - Remember: If, in good faith, you report abuse and neglect you are immune from criminal and civil liability.