



FACTS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE



What is Child Abuse and Neglect?

Physical Abuse – an injury to a child that is not an accident, may include: hitting, punching, beating, burning, biting, kicking, cutting, shaking, or any action that physically harms a child.

Emotional Abuse – maltreatment of a child that may involve criticizing, insulting, yelling, swearing, manipulating, rejecting or withholding love.

Sexual Abuse – any sexual activity with a child, including exhibitionism, photographs or videos, pornography, prostitution, fondling, or rape.

Neglect – failure to provide for a child’s basic physical, emotional, medical or educational needs.

Who Abuses Children?

Most often the abuser is someone the child knows, such as a parent, relative, neighbor, friend of the family, or trusted adult like a teacher, mentor or coach.

Where Does Child Abuse Happen?

Child abuse can happen wherever children are; where they live, sleep, learn, or play.

How Often Does Child Abuse Occur?

Each year, close to 3 million reports of suspected abuse are filed in the United States. Many more cases never get reported. One victim of child abuse is one too many!

Where Are Illinois Statistics Available?

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

<http://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/newsandreports/reports/Pages/default.aspx>