



Be Their Voice.

Facts About Child Abuse

What is Child Abuse and Neglect?

Child abuse includes physical, sexual, or emotional harm—or risk of harm—to a child under 18, caused by a parent, caregiver, friend, or another trusted adult. Neglect occurs when a parent or caregiver fails to provide proper supervision, food, clothing, shelter, education, or medical care—even when resources are available.

Who are the Offenders?

Most often, children are abused by someone they know, love, and trust. This can include parents, stepparents, relatives, family friends, teachers, coaches, friends, or other trusted adults.

1 IN 10
children will experience sexual abuse before the age of 18.

IN 90%
of cases, the child knows their abuser.

Types of Abuse



Neglect

The failure to meet a child's basic needs, including supervision, food, shelter, education, and medical care



Physical Abuse

Any non-accidental injury to a child, such as hitting, shaking, burning, or striking



Sexual Abuse

Sadness, irritability, anxiety, low self-worth, self-harm or suicide attempts

Recognizing the Signs of Abuse or Neglect

*One sign alone does not necessarily mean abuse has occurred—
but it is always worth attention and care.*

Behavioral Changes

- Sudden changes in behavior or grades
- Aggression, anger, or acting out
- Fear of certain individuals or being alone with certain individuals
- Sexualized behavior or excessive focus on private body parts
- Changes in eating or sleep patterns
- Regression in toileting (bedwetting or daytime accidents)
- Nightmares
- Risky behaviors
- Hoarding food



Physical Signs

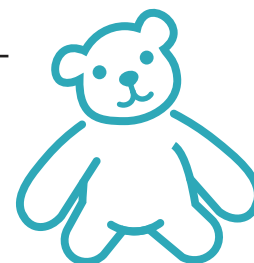
- Unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, burns, or fractures
- Injuries to the abdomen
- Inappropriate clothing for the weather
- Poor hygiene or frequent absences

Emotional Signs

- Withdrawal, sadness, or irritability
- Low self-worth
- Self-harm or suicide attempts

Examples of Neglect

- Lack of supervision
- Unsafe living environment
- Poor hygiene or medical neglect
- Chronic absenteeism or not enrolled in school
- Driving under the influence while caring for children



If You Suspect Abuse: Report It

If you see something or suspect something, you are required by law to report it.
You do not need proof—just reasonable suspicion.



Call the Tennessee
Child Abuse Hotline
877-237-0004



Report Online
carat.app.tn.gov/carat

Together, we can restore hope.