# What is child abuse?

Child abuse is defined as a non-accidental injury or a pattern of injuries to a child. Child abuse includes non-accidental physical injury, physical neglect, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.

Your call is preventing child abuse.













# 1-800-CHILDREN (244-5373)

Confidential helpline of support, encouragement, information and local referrals for parents and caregivers. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



801 Corporate Drive, Suite 120 • Lexington, KY 40503 859-225-8879 • Fax: 859-225-8969

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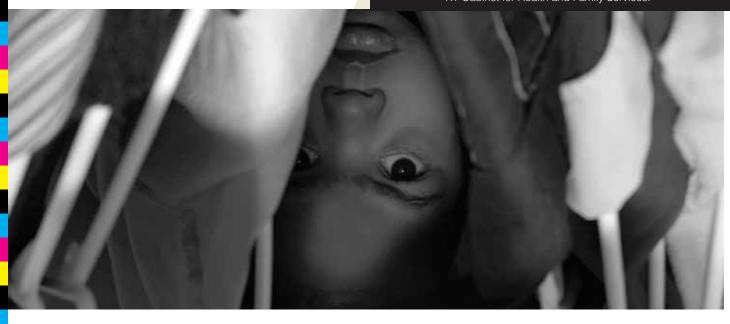


**What Everyone** 

**Should Know** 

**About** 

Preventing Child Abuse



hours a day, 7 days a week. We are here to help. For more information call 1-800-CHILDREM, 24

education and improved parenting skills. abuse and neglect is to provide parents with better parents. The best ways to prevent parents love their children and want to be Families need support. The majority of

caught in life situations beyond their control. the best they can. They are ordinary people occurs, parents love their children and are doing part, even in families in which maltreatment your neighbors, or your relatives. For the most group. Abusive parents can be your friends, more likely to occur in any particular ethnic abuse occurs only among poor families, or is and religious boundaries. It is a myth that child Child abuse crosses all economic, racial, ethnic,

- needs or mental health issues.
- The parent may have unmet emotional Parents themselves were abused as children. problems, a major illness, etc. as marital, financial, or employment

- There is a crisis or series of crises such problem or different.
  - A parent views a child as a violence problem in the home.
- There is a drug, alcohol or domestic children's behavior or abilities. have unrealistic expectations for their child's developmental stages. They may
- Parents may not understand their the demands of raising a family. or family to offer support or help with
- Parents are isolated with no close friends knowledge and skills.
  - There is a lack of parenting

is more likely to occur when: many factors are involved. Child abuse There is no easy answer to this question,

space happen'? Why does child

interferes with the child's ability to function. ridicule, or harass a child to the point that it the use of words that threaten, harshly criticize, development. Emotional abuse may also include necessary for a child's healthy growth and failure to provide understanding and nurturing and of itself. Sometimes emotional abuse is the all forms of child abuse and can also be abuse in EMOTIONAL ABUSE is an important factor in

pornography. Usually the child knows the abuser. is a member of the child's family), or child include child molestation, incest (if the abuser often present. Other terms for sexual abuse adult or older child. Threats or coercion are a child for the sexual gradification of the SEXUAL ABUSE is any physical contact with

as to the proper care required by children. poverty, but from lack of parental knowledge often a chronic problem resulting, not from care, education or supervision. Neglect is with adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical **NECLECT** is the failure to provide a child

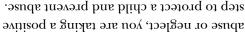
by anger and frustration in their own lives. not intend to injure them, but get carried away parents who physically abuse their children do which results in or threatens serious injury. Often, injury to a child caused by a parent or caregiver PHYSICAL ABUSE is any non-accidental physical

Your call can protect a child.





dependent is required to report (KRS 620.030). child is being abused, neglected, or is The law says anyone who suspects a



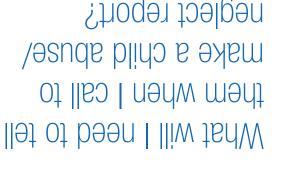
be found guilty of a misdemeanor. who intentionally fails to report could penalties for failing to report. Any person is also required by law. There are criminal duty to report suspected abuse or neglect Beyond helping keep children safe, your

those who make a report in good faith. there are legal protections (immunity) for It is also important to remember that



# Make a Report? I bluods ydw

report. When making a report of suspected something was wrong" but did not make a and professionals that state they "thought to hear from friends, neighbors, relatives death or serious injury of a child, it is common a report may lead to tragic results. After the safe. All too often, peoples failure to make depend on adults around them to keep them Children cannot protect themselves. They must



domestic violence or criminal activity. presence of drugs or firearms in the home, there are additional risk factors such as the when they call. Callers may be asked if Callers will be asked a series of questions

extent of the abuse and/or neglect. child(ren) name(s), their location and the Questions that may be asked include the conducting a more thorough investigation. Additional information will assist in

# a report is made? Myhat happens when

or a child is based on the level of risk present. The time frame for interviewing the family and

# abuse or neglect? a suspected case of be before reporting How sure must a person

report. You only need to suspect abuse. to have witnessed the abuse to make the Reporters don't need proof and don't need

## ?səvləsməh report have to identify Do people who

can only be released by a court order. caller's identity is kept confidential and reporting to reveal their identity. The not absolutely necessary for the person It is helpful to the investigator, but it is

# about the child/abuse What can I be told

safely reunite the family as soon as possible.

When that happens, services are provided to Rarely a child is placed out of the home.

shared with the reporter may be limited. the amount of information that can be Because of confidentiality and privacy laws,

neglect report?

If you feel the child is in immediate danger, call the police!

### report be made? Where should a

county where the abuse/neglect has happened. Community Based Services (DCBS) office in the Monday through Friday to the Department for Reports can be made from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

other states call 1-800-422-4453. at 1-877-KY-SAFEI (1-877-597-2331). For week statewide Child Abuse Report Hotline OR by calling the twenty-four hour seven day a

call the police! If you feel the child is in immediate danger,