

SECTION 63 OF THE CHILD PROTECTION ACT STATES

that every person has an ongoing, legal obligation to contact the authorities directly and promptly if they suspect a child is or may be in need of protection. This includes professional or official duties with respect to a child, including: a physician, nurse, dentist, pharmacist, psychologist or other health care professional, school principal, teacher, counsellor, social worker, youth or recreational leader, coach, member of the clergy or childcare worker, a police officer, or probation officer.

Any professional or official who fails to report a suspicion can be charged with an offense under the Child Protection Act and the Sexual Offences Act, respectively.

"One of the first things I tell families is that we are here to work together to find the resources to help them get on a stable path."



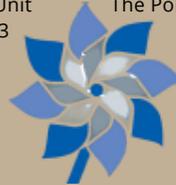
Dr. Novia Carter-Lookie
Dir. Of Youth Programs
Bahamas Lotus

One must understand not all suspicions of child abuse turn out to be substantial. But all deserve serious attention and fast actions. The earlier abuse is identified and stopped, the earlier medical care, therapy, counseling can help children and families heal.



If You Need Help Or Believe Someone Else Needs Help Please Call:

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| Child Protection Services
(242) 397-2550 | Crime Stoppers Bahamas
(242) 328-8477(TIPS) |
| The Child Abuse Hotline
New Providence
(242) 322-2763/422-2763 | Health Social Services Family Violence
(242) 356-3350 |
| The Child Abuse Hotline
Grand Bahama
(242) 351-7763 | Criminal Detective Unit
(242) 322-2561 |
| Christian Counseling Center
(242) 323-7000 | AIDS Secretariat
(242) 328-2260 |
| Community Counseling and
Assessment Center
(242) 323-3293 | Bahamas National Drug Council
(242) 325-4634 |
| The Crisis Center Hotline
New Providence
(242) 328-0922 | PACE School
(242) 356-0943 |
| The Crisis Center Hotline
Grand Bahama
(242) 352-4357 | School Welfare Division
(242) 397-2524 |
| Suspected Child Abuse and
Neglect (SCAN) Unit
(242) 322-5823 | Adolescent Health Center
(242) 328-3248 |
| | Sandilands Rehabilitation Center
(242) 324-1246 |
| | The Police Victim Supports Hotline
(242) 328-0922 |



Please share this brochure with a friend,
family member, neighbor, or co-worker.
Thank you for helping to raise awareness and
helping to prevent child abuse and neglect in
The Bahamas.




**Bahamas
Lotus**

46 Bernard Road
P.O. Box N-222
Nassau, The Bahamas



SCAN ME



CHILD ABUSE
HELP PROTECT CHILDREN
IN
YOUR COMMUNITY

Types of Abuse

Child abuse has many faces, and while all abuse hurts, VARIOUS kinds of abuse can hurt in SEPARATE ways.

Physical Abuse: A child is at risk of or has suffered physical harm inflicted by a person having custody of the child. It also occurs when a person fails to adequately supervise, protect, care for, or provide for a child. Physical abuse also includes a pattern of neglect in supervising, protecting, caring for or providing for a child.

Neglect: A child is at risk of or has been harmed as a result of the caregiver's failure to adequately supervise, protect, care for, or provide for a child. Neglect also occurs when a child has a medical, mental, emotional, or developmental condition that requires services or treatment and the person having custody of the child does not provide these services or treatment.

Sexual Abuse: A child is at risk of or has been sexually molested or sexually exploited by a person having custody of a child or by another person. It also occurs when the person having custody of a child knows, or should know, of the possibility of sexual molestation or exploitation by another person and fails to protect a child.

Abused children do not always show typical warning signs of abuse or neglect, but sometimes there are subtle indicators. Know the subtle signs of abuse and if you have any concerns at all about a child, please contact your local Children's Aid immediately.

Emotional Abuse: A child is at risk of or has suffered emotional harm demonstrated by serious anxiety, depression, withdrawal, self-destructive or aggressive behaviors or delayed development and there are reasonable grounds to believe this harm results from the actions, failure to act or pattern of neglect by the person having custody of the child. It also occurs when a child exhibits the above serious behaviors and the person having custody of the child does not provide services or treatment to alleviate the harm. Emotional abuse can also include exposure to domestic violence.

Exposure to Domestic Violence: A child exposed directly or indirectly to physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological harm between current or former intimate partners or spouses. Exposure can include seeing and hearing violent acts, seeing related injuries, and being told about the violence.

Abandonment/Separation: A child has been abandoned, a child's parent has died or is unavailable to exercise his or her custodial rights over a child and has not made adequate provision for a child's care and custody. It also occurs when a child is in residential placement and the parent refuses or is unable or unwilling to resume the child's care and custody.

Signs of Abuse

It is important to realize that the presence of any one indicator does not mean that a child has been abused. In most instances, abused children will exhibit a number of behavioral and physical indicators. It is not your responsibility to determine if a child is being abused. Call the Child Abuse Hotline.

PHYSICAL ABUSE	
Physical indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> injuries that are not consistent with explanation presence of several injuries that are in various stages facial injuries in infants and preschool children injuries inconsistent with the child's age and developmental stage 	Behavioural indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot recall how injuries occurred or others an inconsistent explanation wary of adults may cringe or flinch if touched unexpectedly infants may display a vacant stare extremely aggressive or extremely withdrawn
NEGLECT	
Physical indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> poor hygiene unattended physical or medical needs (i.e. dental work, glasses) consistent lack of supervision 	Behavioural indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pale, listless, unkempt frequent absence from school inappropriate clothing for the weather, dirty clothes frequently does not bring a lunch
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	
Physical indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bed wetting that is non-medical in origin frequent psychosomatic complaints, headaches, nausea, abdominal pains child fails to thrive 	Behavioural indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> severe depression extreme withdrawal or aggressiveness overly compliant, too well mannered, too neat or clean extreme attention seeking displays extreme inhibition in play
SEXUAL ABUSE	
Physical indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unusual or excessive itching in the genital or anal area torn, stained or bloody underwear pregnancy injuries to the genital or anal areas (e.g. bruising, swelling or infection) venereal disease 	Behavioural indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> age inappropriate play with toys, self or others displaying explicit sexual acts age inappropriate sexually explicit drawing and/or descriptions bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge seductive behaviours

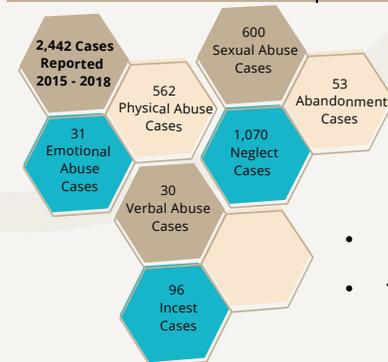
WHY IS IT YOUR DUTY TO REPORT?

1. Every child has the right to be cared for and protected by adults.
2. A child is never to blame for their abuse.
3. Abuse can affect a child for the rest of their life.
4. Think about how you would feel if you did not act to protect the child.
5. Trust your instincts if you think a child is being abused then report the abuse.
6. If the offender is a child or teenager, reporting the abuse can help them get support to change their behavior.
7. If you report abuse, the child will always remember that you had the courage to stand up for them and do something to protect them.

WHY CALL?

OUR CHILDREN ARE PRECIOUS AND THE MOST VULNERABLE ASSETS IN SOCIETY, THEY DESERVE A LIFE FREE OF FEAR AND VIOLENCE. EVERY PERSON CAN PROTECT A CHILDREN BY BEING ALERT TO THE SUBTLE AND TYPICAL SIGNS OF ABUSE AND KNOWING WHEN AND WHO TO CALL TO HELP A CHILD AT RISK OF HARM. IF YOU HAVE ONGOING CONCERNS, CALL THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.

IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
USE YOUR VOICE!



Statistics

- 382 Cases Reported Jan 2020 - Feb 2021
- 103 Cases Jan - Oct 2022