

# Types of Abuse Assigned at Screening<sup>1</sup>

BELOW ARE THE TYPES OF ABUSE SCREENERS APPLY WHEN DETERMINING IF INFORMATION RECEIVED IS A REPORT OF ABUSE OR ANY CHILD (UNDER THE AGE OF 18) REGARDLESS OF SETTING.

## **Neglect**

Neglect is the negligent treatment of a child, including but not limited to the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision, protection, or medical care that is likely to endanger the child's health or welfare.

Neglect can occur in a single circumstance, or over a period (circumstantial vs chronic neglect). Circumstantial neglect can be an action or a passive inaction-in other words, an act or omission. Chronic neglect is a persistent pattern of family functioning in which the parent/caregiver does not sustain or meet the basic needs of a child, resulting in an accumulation of harm that can have long-term negative effects on the child.

- *Subtypes:*
  - Failure to provide for a child's basic needs
  - Lack of supervision
  - Lack of protection
  - Medical neglect
  - Access or exposure to a harmful substance
  - Child selling
  - Abandonment

## **Physical Abuse**

Physical Abuse is any assault of a child and any physical injury to a child which has been caused by other than accidental means, that results in harm, including any injury which appears to be at variance with the explanation given for the injury.

Physical abuse may also include injury that is a result of discipline or punishment.

# Types of Abuse Assigned at Screening, cont.

In some circumstances, an allegation of physical abuse does not result in a visible injury. This includes circumstances where there was never a visible injury, circumstances where the severity of the action was likely to have resulted in a physical injury, but one is not visible, and circumstances when there was a visible injury that has since healed.

Alleged perpetrator intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly caused or reasonably could have caused physical injury.

Alleged perpetrator regardless of expressed intention, inflicted a physical injury on the child. Include allegations of corporal punishment that result in the following examples of injuries, as well as dangerous behavior toward or near the child that shows reckless disregard for the child.

In addition, consider: Child's age, development, and vulnerability; Location of the injury; and Severity of injury.

The child's injuries may be internal or external. Injuries may be on various parts of the body and in various stages of healing.

- *Subtypes:*
  - Injury that is unexplained or at variance with given explanation
  - Torture or cruel treatment of child
  - Medical abuse

## **Sexual Abuse or Sexual Exploitation**

Sexual abuse includes rape, sodomy, unlawful sexual penetration, incest, fondling or voyeurism, any sexual contact with a child; touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of a child; or causing a child to touch the sexual or other intimate parts of a child; or causing a child to touch the sexual or other intimate parts of the other person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of either party.

# Types of Abuse Assigned at Screening, cont.

Sexual abuse also includes contributing to the sexual delinquency of a child and any other conduct that allows, employs, authorizes, permits, induces, or encourages a child to engage in the performing for people to observe or the photographing, filming, tape recording, or other exhibition which, in whole or in part, depicts sexually explicit conduct or contact or sexual abuse involving a child or rape of a child.

- *Subtypes:*
  - Sexual contact
  - Physical or behavioral indicators consistent with sexual abuse
  - Exposure to sexually explicit conduct or materials
  - Sexual exploitation
  - Sex trafficking

## Mental Injury

Mental injury to a child includes only cruel or unconscionable acts or statements made, or threatened to be made, to a child, if the acts, statements, or threats result in severe harm to the child's psychological, cognitive, emotional, or social well-being and functioning.

- *Subtypes:*
  - Parent/caregiver actions have led to or create conditions that are consistent with substantial impairment of the child's psychological, cognitive, emotional, or social well-being and ability to function

## Threat of Harm

Threat of harm to a child means subjecting a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare.

Threat of harm is reserved for use at screening when the reported information does not identify another abuse type. When the abuse to the primary victim results in harm, a threat of harm to other children in the home should not be assumed but must be considered.

# Types of Abuse Assigned at Screening, cont.

## Threat of Harm, cont.

- *Subtypes:*
  - Physical abuse
  - Sexual abuse or exploitation
  - Neglect
  - Domestic violence

## \*Educational setting specific types:

- Restraint or seclusion of a child who is a student by personnel, contractors, or volunteers of a public education.
- Infliction of corporal punishment on a child who is a student by a teacher, administrator, school employee, or school volunteer.

ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE ABUSE TYPES SCREENERS APPLY WHEN DETERMINING IF INFORMATION RECEIVED IS A REPORT OF ABUSE OF A CHILD OR YOUNG ADULT IN A CHILD WELFARE CERTIFIED RESOURCE HOME:

**Neglect**

**Abandonment**

**Financial Exploitation**

**Physical Abuse or Willful Infliction of Pain**

**Involuntary Seclusion**

**Wrongful Use of Restraint**

**Sexual Harassment or Coercive Conduct**

**Verbal Abuse**