

Warning Signs of Child Abuse

Signs of abuse vary and can look different for each situation. Knowing some of the common signs of child abuse can help you make an informed decision to help keep children safe.

Emotional

- Loss of interest in activities they previously enjoyed
- Decline in academic performance
- Increased difficulty regulating emotions
- Social withdrawal or extreme behavior changes

Physical

- Disturbed sleep patterns
- Increased aggressive behavior or language
- Frequent bruises, scratches, or marks on the skin
- Injuries not seeming to match the cause provided

Sexual

- Avoidance of a particular person
- Unusual bedwetting or toileting behaviors
- Increased sexually explicit language (often above their developmental level)

See something. Say something.

If you suspect the abuse/neglect of a child, make a report as soon as possible by calling the 24/7 Centralized Intake Line at +1 (855) 444-3911



Warning Signs of Grooming

Grooming is the process of normalizing inappropriate behavior between minors and adults. Offenders often use grooming techniques to get closer to victims or potential victims and their families. Grooming can be very clear-but oftentimes this process is done in small and secretive stages to avoid detection.

Secrecy

Asking someone to keep things secret, or being secretive about how they spend their time

Isolation

Making someone feel isolated, or finding excuses to spend time alone with them

Gifts

Giving someone gifts or compliments that seem too good to be true, or that they can't explain

Inappropriate behavior

Touching in inappropriate ways-often disguised as a normal behavior within a certain context

Manipulation and threats

Trying to find out things about someone, or leading them to believe that what is happening is normal

Signs of grooming vary and can look different for each situation. Knowing some of the common signs of grooming can help you make an informed decision to help keep children safe.