

CHILD ABUSE CAN AND MUST BE STOPPED.

There are the four forms of child abuse / maltreatment. Learn the signs and symptoms.
Then, if you see something, say something! **Call 1.800.342.3720**

YOUR ACTION CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A HURTING CHILD!

Physical Abuse

- bruises or welts
- “grab marks” on arms
- rope or cigarette burns
- lacerations or abrasions
- eye injuries
- shaking / whiplash / retinal injuries
- fractures

Behavioral Indicators

- blaming self - “I was bad”
- concealing clothing
- wary of contact
- afraid to return home
- self-injurious behavior
- extreme aggression
- injured after weekends, vacations or absences

Sexual Abuse

- difficulty walking or sitting
- stained underwear
- genital or anal pain, bruising or itching
- venereal diseases
- painful urination
- pregnancy

Behavioral Indicators

- bizarre / sophisticated sexual behavior
- Poor peer relationships
- delinquency or running away
- reluctance to participate in a gym class, submit to a medical exam, or change in front of others

Emotional Abuse

- telling children that they are unwanted, ugly or worthless
- deliberately withholding love, affection, or access to normal peer-activities
- allowing child to use drugs or alcohol, have access to pornographic materials, or participate in criminal activities

Behavioral Indicators

- poor self-esteem
- destructive behavior
- fire-setting or cruelty to animals
- developmental delays
- substance abuse
- extreme withdrawal

Neglect

- consistent hunger
- poor skin or teeth hygiene
- inappropriate dress
- speech disorders
- constant fatigue
- inadequate supervision
- lack of appropriate medical care
- dehydration or diarrhea

Behavioral Indicators

- developmental delays
- failure to thrive
- begging or stealing food
- chronic absences from school
- suicide attempts

To report a harmed child, or a child who may be at risk of harm — call the New York State Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-342-3720

This is the “Hotline” number for the Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services

The Hotline receives telephone calls alleging child maltreatment or abuse in New York. Information from the calls is relayed to the local Child Protective Service for investigation.

The Central Register monitors response and identifies if there are prior abuse or maltreatment reports. Your name can be kept confidential.

Resources

To report child abuse or maltreatment
1-800-342-3720

Child Advocacy Centers:

Being a parent is hard today. If you or someone you know is having difficulty coping with a child’s behavior or their own anger, here are some places where parents can get help:

Brooklyn **718-928-6950**
Queens **718-575-1342**
Staten Island **718-556-0844**
Manhattan & Bronx
212-517-3012

Important Hotlines:

Domestic Violence **800-621-4673**
Crime Victims **866-669-4357**
Sexual Assault **212-227-3000**



YOU CAN ASSIST IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE



The Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection
27 Christopher Street
New York, NY 10014

No one wants to invade a neighbor’s privacy — but we each have a civic responsibility to ensure that every child living in our building, on our block, and in our community is safe.

Mel Schneiderman, PhD,
Director, Vincent J. Fontana
Center for Child Protection

What Can You Do to Help Prevent Child Abuse?

1. *Raise the issue* with your local district and elected officials.
2. *Recognize at-risk types of families*: those who abuse drugs or alcohol; those who seem disinterested in the care of their children or who are isolated from their community.
3. *Reach out* to families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse.
4. *Recognize the warning signs* and symptoms that a child is being abused.
5. *Report* suspected child abuse or neglect.

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The 5 R’s for Prevention are courtesy of Prevent Child Abuse America.