

RESPONDING TO SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

For further information, please see the [BC Health Services](#)

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

Child abuse can take different forms. It may be physical, sexual, emotional – or the result of neglect.

Physical Abuse is a deliberate physical assault or action by a person that results in, or is likely to result in, physical harm to a child or youth. It includes the use of unreasonable force to discipline a child or youth or prevent a child or youth from harming him/herself or others. The injuries sustained by the child or youth may vary in severity and range from minor bruising, burns, welts, or bite marks to major fractures of the bones or skull to, in the most extreme cases, death.

Emotional Harm is the most difficult kind of harm to recognize. Under the Child, Family and Community Service Act, a child or youth is defined as emotionally harmed if they demonstrate severe:

- x Anxiety;
- x Depression;
- x Withdrawal; or
- x Self-destructive or aggressive behaviour.

Sexual Abuse is when a child or youth is used (or likely to be used) for the sexual gratification of another person. It includes:

- x Touching or invitation to touch for sexual purposes;
- x Intercourse (vaginal, oral or anal);
- x Menacing or threatening sexual acts, obscene gestures or communications, or stalking;
- x Sexual references (words or gestures) to the child's body or behaviour;
- x Requests that the child expose their body for sexual purposes; or
- x Deliberate exposure of the child or youth to sexual activity or material.

Sexual Exploitation





DOCUMENTATION OF REPORT OF SUS CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT

School District No. 40

Completing a Report

STEP 1-If a child is in immediate danger, call 911 for local police assistance.

STEP 2-If a staff member believes that a child abuse investigation is warranted, that person is to report their concern to a Child Welfare Worker at the Ministry of Children and Family Development (604-660-602). The following information may be helpful when making this report:

- x The child's or youth's name, age and location;
- x Any immediate concerns for the child's or youth's safety;
- x Why you think the child or youth is at risk;
- x What the child or youth has said;
- x Any info about the child's or youth's parents and/or the alleged offender(s);
- x Whether any other children or youth may be affected;
- x Whether the child or youth has any disabilities or speaks a language other than English; and
- x The names of other people or agencies involved with the child, youth and/or family.

Note: Do not wait until you have all of this information. Just tell the Child Welfare Worker what you know.

STEP 3