

Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation

- The willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation or punishment with resulting physical harm, pain or personal anguish; and/or
- Any knowing or intentional act which results in physical injury, unreasonable confinement, cruel punishment, sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation.

Physical: Information indicates the existence of an injury that is unexplained; not consistent with the explanation given or is non-accidental. The information may also only indicate a substantial risk of bodily injury.

Emotional: Information indicates psychopathological or disturbed behavior in a child who is documented by a psychiatrist, psychologist or licensed mental health practitioner to be the result of continual scapegoating, rejection or exposure to violence by the child's parent/caretaker.

Sexual: Information indicates any sexually oriented act, practice, contact, or interaction in which the child is or has been used for the sexual stimulation of a parent, the child, or other person.

- **Neglect**
 - Failure to provide goods and services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish or mental illness. Staff failure to intervene appropriately to prevent self-injurious behavior may constitute neglect. Staff failure to implement facility safeguards, once client to client aggression is identified, may also constitute neglect; and/or
 - Any knowing or intentional act or omission on the part of a caregiver to provide essential services, or the failure of a vulnerable adult, due to physical or mental impairments, to perform self-care or obtain essential services to such an extent that there is actual physical injury to a vulnerable adult or imminent danger of the vulnerable adult suffering physical injury or death.

Neglect can be emotional or physical and is defined as:

Emotional: Information indicates that the child is suffering or has suffered severe negative emotional effects due to a parent's failure to provide opportunities for normal experience that produce feelings of being loved, wanted, secure and worthy. Lack of such opportunities may impair the child's ability to form healthy relationships with others.

Physical: Information indicates the failure of the parent to provide basic needs or a safe and sanitary living environment for the child. Parent includes guardian, custodian and caretaker.

- **Exploitation**
 - The taking of property of a vulnerable adult by any person by means of undue influence, breach of a fiduciary relationship, deception, or extortion or by any unlawful means.

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- Incidents involving suspected or alleged Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation must IMMEDIATELY reported to Law Enforcement or the DHHS Children and Family Services Abuse and Neglect Hotline

1-800-652-1999