

### Types of Child Abuse, Neglect and Assault

The following are examples of child maltreatment to guide your response when observing or hearing information that may suggest a need to report to a Children's Aid Society/Family and Children's Services in keeping with your professional duty to report child maltreatment.

#### **1. Physical Abuse:**

Physical abuse includes any non-accidental form of injury or harm inflicted upon a child by a family member or a person having charge of the child that could be in violation of the Criminal Code of Canada or could render the child in need of protection under the Child and Family Services Act.

It may include, but not be exclusive to:

- a) beating
- b) burning
- c) slapping
- d) kicking
- e) throwing or shaking and child
- f) the use of a closed fist or instrument

#### **2. Sexual Abuse:**

Sexual abuse involves a family member of a person having charge of the child. It includes any exhibitionism, sexual intercourse, molestation or sexual exploitation involving a child, which could be a violation of the Criminal Code of Canada, or render the child in need of protection under the Child and Family Services Act.

It may include:

- a) invitation to sexual touching
- b) touching for a sexual purpose
- c) penetration or intrusion (vagina, anus or mouth): penile, object or instrument, digital
- d) oral contact (vagina, anal, oral); fellatio and/or cunnilingus
- e) masturbation – mutual, offender manipulating and/or child manipulating
- f) ritual abuse
- g) exposure to pornography, participation in producing pornography
- h) procuring a child for purposes of prostitution

### 3. Emotional Harm:

According to the amended Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017, a child is in need of protection where the child has suffered emotional harm demonstrated by serious:

- a) anxiety
- b) depression
- c) withdrawal
- d) self-destructive and/or aggressive behaviour
- e) and/or delayed development

and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the emotional harm suffered by the child results from the actions, failure to act or pattern of neglect on the part of the child's parent or the person having charge of the child.

### 4. Neglect:

Neglect includes:

- a) poor general care (i.e. nutrition, housing, clothing and hygiene)
- b) lack of supervision/inadequate childcare
- c) abandonment
- d) inadequate parenting
- e) failure to protect
- f) lack of medical or dental care
- g) substance abuse
- h) mental health
- i) confinement

Although the issues of neglect contain many of the characteristics found within child abuse, in many instances it is a pervasive problem that has developed over time. Neglect is often the result of the refusal or inability of the parent or the caretaker to meet the child's specific needs.

## 5. Violence in the Home:

This involves any actual or threatened verbal, physical or sexual assault to an individual within the family system. For example, while the child may not be a direct victim of the aforementioned abuse, witnessing other family members being abused may be detrimental to the child's well being. It is recognized that children exposed to family violence are at risk of behavioural and emotional difficulties. The impact of this on a child is may not always be evident, but ~~is~~ can in fact be potentially harmful to a child, both physically and emotionally.