

CHILDREN AT RISK

- Are left alone in a residence, vehicle, or with someone who cannot look after the child safely.
- Witness domestic violence on an ongoing basis.
- Live with a chronically intoxicated parent/caregiver.
- Are often dirty and improperly dressed for the weather.
- Receive inappropriate punishment by deliberately being locked out of the home.



Do not hesitate to contact your children's aid society if you think a child is being abused or is at risk of abuse.

CRIME PREVENTION

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE



EMERGENCY
9-1-1

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY
808-2222

For more information regarding **Child Abuse**, contact the Youth Bureau at your local Police Division.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.torontopolice.on.ca

Working Together to Prevent
Crime...

SP 309-E, 2000/10



CHILD ABUSE



Picture compliments of Victims of Violence
Original Artwork by Vincent Sinclair

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse can mean physically hurting a child, sexually molesting, failing to provide proper care or depriving a child of affection and acceptance. The abuser has responsibility for the care of the child.

DEFINITION OF A CHILD

In Ontario, a child is any person under the age of 16 years.

TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Neglect

PHYSICAL ABUSE

A parent/caregiver's actions results in:

- bruises
- burns
- marks from hands or other objects
- human bites
- fractures

SEXUAL ABUSE

Anyone who:

- fondles (touches the child in a sexual way)
- gets the child to touch the adult inappropriately
- exposes oneself
- has oral sex with a child

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

A parent/caregiver who continually uses any of the following:

- rejecting
- criticizing
- insulting
- terrorizing
- humiliating

NEGLECT

A parent/caregiver who does not provide the proper:

- food and clothing
- housing
- supervision
- safe surroundings
- personal health care
- medical health care
- education

DUTY TO REPORT

Section 72 (1) of The Child and Family Services Act requires **any person** who has reasonable grounds to **suspect** that a child is being abused or is at risk of abuse, to promptly report the suspicion to a children's aid society.

Local Children's Aid Societies:

Children's Aid Society of Toronto	924-4646
Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto	395-1500
Jewish Family & Child Services	638-7800

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE?

- **Believe the child.** Acknowledge what the child tells you no matter how difficult it may be to accept the identity of the abuser or that abuse has occurred.
- **Listen openly and calmly.** It is important to put your own feelings of anger, frustration or pain aside.
- **Reassure the child.** Be supportive of the child. Let him/her know you will do something to help. Let the child know that it is not his/her fault and they are doing the right thing by telling you.
- **Write down the facts.** Record as soon as possible what the child has told you. Use the child's own words and avoid asking questions. Write down everything about the disclosure, no matter how insignificant. This is important for an investigation.
- **Report the disclosure.** Every person has a duty to report child abuse or **risk** of child abuse. As soon as possible after the disclosure, contact the police or the children's aid society.

80% of abusers are known to their child victims.