

Training Module 3: Indicators of Child Abuse or Neglect Training

Recognize the signs that may signal child abuse or neglect and learn what to do if you suspect a child is being abused or neglected.

May 2023



Disclaimer

This training module contains general guidelines and information. It is not intended to be a comprehensive summary or to address all possible applications of, or exceptions to, the topics described herein. Various scenarios and issues are covered, but please note that these are to be used as a tool for further guidance and do not represent an exhaustive list of possible scenarios and topics that Program Staff may encounter. This training module should not substitute for additional training to be provided by individual Covered Programs or for guidance on specific situations to be provided by administrators of Covered Programs.



What is child abuse or neglect?

Child Abuse

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (DSS) defines child abuse as “the intentional maltreatment of a child that can be physical, sexual, or emotional in nature.”

Child Neglect

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (DSS) defines neglect as “the failure to give children the necessary care they need.”



Mandatory Reporting

- Both as a matter of University Policy and North Carolina State Law, any member of the University Community who reasonably suspects that a Minor has experienced Child Abuse, Neglect or Violent Offense (Per G.S. 14-318.6) by a parent, guardian, caretaker, peer, non-custodial adult or Covered Program Staff member has an absolute obligation to report that suspicion to:
 - The UNC-CH Police Department; and/or DSS
 - The UNC-CH Protection of Minors Coordinator



**It's the
law!**

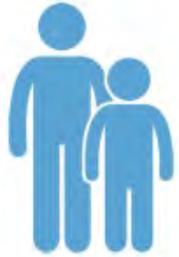


Mandatory Reporting

- As long as you are acting in good faith, you cannot be held liable (N.C.G.S. §7B-309).
- Such individuals are known as “Mandated Reporters”
- **All incidents involving a minor will immediately be reported to UNC-CH Police Department.**



**It's the
law!**



Obligations to Make Reports

The obligation to make a report to a county DSS of suspected child abuse, neglect or dependency is separate and independent from the obligation to make a report to a local law enforcement agency when a person knows or reasonably should have known a juvenile is or has been a victim of a designated crime.

Depending on the facts:

Report to DSS	Report to Law Enforcement	Report to both DSS and Law Enforcement
There is abuse, neglect or dependency but no crime.	There is a designated crime, but no abuse, neglect or dependency.	There is abuse, neglect or dependency, and the juvenile is a victim of a designated crime.



S.534 Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017

What Does this Mean for You?

- Law expands existing mandated reporting laws to all youth sport organizations that participate in international/interstate sporting events.
- Any adult authorized to interact with youth athletes are required to report suspicions of abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies within 24 hours.
 - All staff and volunteers working with youth could be considered mandatory reporters under the federal act.



S.534 Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (continued)

What Does this Mean for You?

- There is an additional requirement to report suspicions to the US Center for Safe Sport if your organization is governed by a “National Governing Body” or “Paralympic Sports Organization.”

To report suspicions of abuse to the US Center for Safe Sport, training, or for more information: <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/>



Recognizing Child Abuse or Neglect

It is important to note that any one of these things could mean anything or nothing.

For example, there are many reasons a child may or may not want to go home on any particular day, or a child may be overly compliant when they are trying to please a favorite staff member.

It is also important to remember that issues related solely to poverty are not considered child maltreatment issues.

However, clusters of two or more of these, should raise a red flag.



Recognizing Child Abuse or Neglect (continued)

Potential Signs of Abuse

- Shows sudden changes in behavior or performance
- Displays overt sexualized behavior or exhibits sexual knowledge that is inconsistent with their age
- Has not received medical attention for a physical injury that has been brought to the parents' attention
- Has learning problems that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes
- Is always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen
- Is overly compliant, an overachiever, or too responsible
- Comes early, stays late, and does not want to go home
- Seems frightened of the parents/protests or cries when it is time to go home
- Shrinks at the approach of adults
- Reports injury by a parent or another adult caregiver



Recognizing Child Neglect

Potential Signs of Child Neglect

- Begs or steals food or money. May stockpile food
- Lacks needed medical or dental care; hygiene problems and body odor
- Lacks age appropriate adult supervision
- Lacks clothing appropriate for the weather
- Reports family violence in the home
- Reports use of illegal substances or excessive use of alcohol by parents or caregivers
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs
- States there is no one at home to provide care
- Malnourished. Very low body weight/height for age
- Often tired, sleepy listless



Recognizing Emotional Abuse

Physical Indicators

- Developmental delays
- Wetting bed, pants
- Speech disorders
- Medical issues

Behavioral Indicators

- Overly compliant or defensive
- Extremely emotional, aggressive, withdrawn, anxious/anxiety disorders, phobias, sleep disorders
- Destructive or anti-social behaviors
- Inappropriate behavior for age
- Suicidal thoughts and behaviors



Recognizing Sexual Abuse

Physical Indicators

- Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Pain or itching in genital area
- Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia, vaginal or anal areas
- Venereal disease, especially in pre-teens
- Pregnancy

Behavioral Indicators

- Unwilling to change in front of others or refusing to participate in physical activities (such as swimming)
- Withdrawn, depressed, anxious, aggression, fantasy or infantile behavior
- Bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge
- Poor peer relationships
- Delinquent or run away
- Reports sexual assault by a caregiver



Immediate Risk of Harm

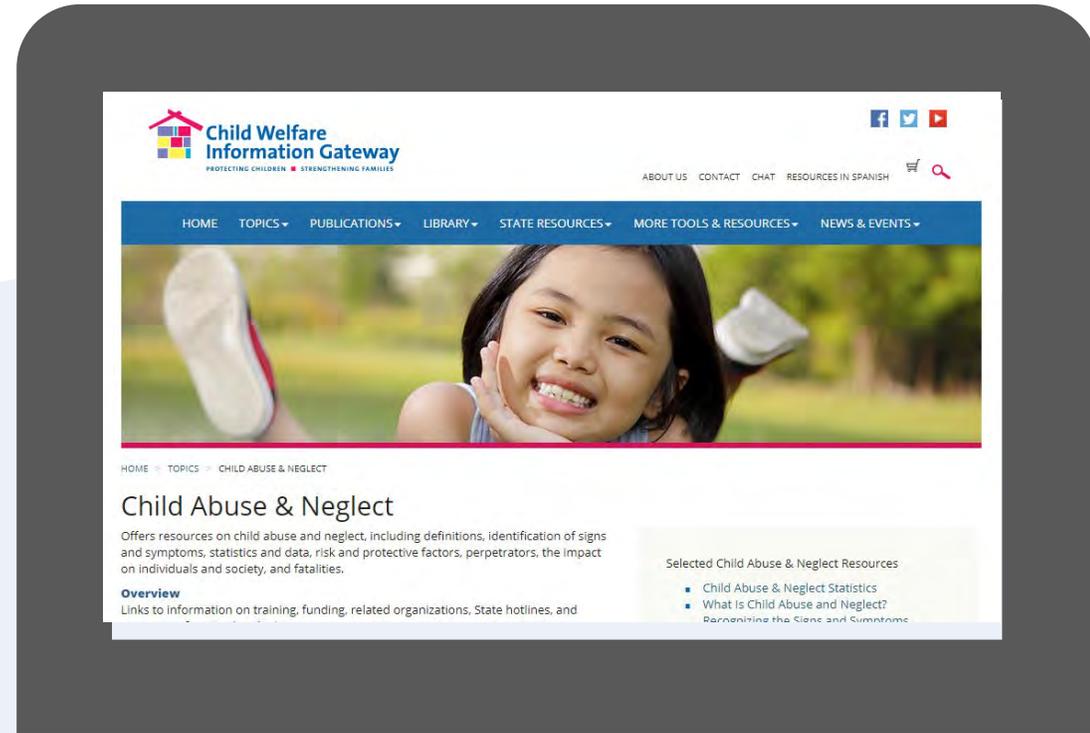
- If you encounter a situation in which a minor is at immediate risk of harm or the victim of a criminal act, please contact the UNC Department of Public Safety or the appropriate Police Department immediately by Dialing 911.
- The UNC Department of Public Safety or the appropriate Police Department will make a final determination as to whether a matter merits further investigation. University Community Members must not attempt to make such judgments independently of law enforcement.
- Reporting to University officials does not relieve the obligation of a University Community Member to also make a report directly to law enforcement in the event the minor is at immediate risk.



Additional Information

Child Welfare Information Gateway

For more information and resources on Child Abuse and Neglect visit [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau.](https://www.hhs.gov/childrens-bureau/)





Definitions Under NC G.S. 14-318.6 (Reporting to Law Enforcement)

Serious Bodily Injury

- Bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes serious permanent disfigurement, coma, a permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, or permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or that results in prolonged hospitalization.

Serious Physical Injury

- Physical injury that causes great pain and suffering. The term includes serious mental injury.

This included peer-on-peer offenses.



Definitions Under NC G.S. 14-318.6 (Reporting to Law Enforcement)

Sexually violent offenses

- An offense committed against a juvenile that is sexually violent offense as defined in G.S. 14-208.6(5). This term also includes the following: an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses; aiding, and abetting any of these offenses. The following are “sexually violent offenses” pursuant to G.S. 14-208.6(5) (including the solicitation and aiding and abetting).

This includes peer-on-peer offenses.



Definitions Under NC G.S. 14-318.6 (Reporting to Law Enforcement)

Violent offenses

- Any offense that inflicts upon the juvenile serious bodily injury or serious physical injury by other than accidental means. This term also includes the following: an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses; aiding and abetting any of these offenses.

This includes peer-on-peer offense.



Definitions Under NC G.S. 14-318.6 (Reporting to Law Enforcement)

Misdemeanor child abuse

- Occurs when a parent or a person providing care or supervision to a child who is 15 or younger inflicts or allows to be inflicted physical injury to the child by nonaccidental means or creates or allows to be created substantial risk of physical injury to the child by nonaccidental means.



Making a Report

Before making a report, you **do not** need to conduct your own investigation or be certain that mistreatment has occurred.

Make a report if...

- You know that a minor is suffering abuse or neglect or is a victim of a crime.
- You suspect that a minor is suffering abuse or neglect or is a victim of a crime

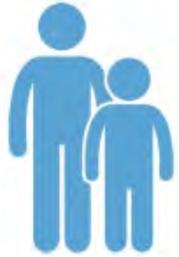
Make a report regardless...

- Of whom the suspected culprit may be – a family member, teacher, religious leader, student, or coach, well-respected or not
- Of where the abuse or neglect may be occurring, for example in the home or at UNC



Making a Report

All incidents, including injury or illness involving minors, must be reported to the Protection of Minors Office by phone, email or an online report.



Who to make a report to?

- **All suspected incidents of Child Abuse, Neglect or Violent Offense must be reported immediately to the UNC-CH PD, regardless of the residence of the Minor involved or the suspected perpetrator.**
- **If the child requires immediate medical services call 911.**
- **Once the situation is under control, you must make a report to the Office of Protection of Minors.**

UNC-Chapel Hill Police Department

 919-962-8100 (Non-emergency) or
 911 (Emergency Line)

Office of the Protection of Minors

 919-843-8995
 protectionofminors@unc.edu



Who to make a report to?

- The reporting county in Chapel Hill is Orange County. You can report abuse or neglect by calling Orange County Child Protective Services (CPS).
- A directory of all 100 county DSS can be found on the [Local DSS Directory](#).
- **If the child requires immediate medical services call 911.**

Orange County Child Protective Services

 919-245-2818 (Intake Line) or
 919-732-8181 (Emergency Line)

Office of the Protection of Minors

 919-843-8995
 protectionofminors@unc.edu



Who to make a report to? (continued)

In addition, the reporting party may have to notify one of the following offices. For instances involving:

Alleged sexual misconduct, harassment or assault contact:

UNC-Chapel Hill

Equal Opportunity and Compliance (EOC) Office

☎ (919) 966-3576

Any other forms of alleged inappropriate behavior or misconduct contact:

UNC-Chapel Hill

Employee and Management Relations Office

☎ (919) 843-3444



Who to make a report to? (continued)

In addition, the reporting party may have to notify one of the following offices. For instances involving:

Suspicious of abuse within organizations governed by a “National Governing Body” or “Paralympic Sports Organization”:

US Center for Safe Sport

☎ (720) 531-0340



Resources

- [American Camp Association](#)
- [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)
- [North Carolina Division of Social Services](#)
- [Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina](#)
- [US Center for Safe Sport](#)





Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is mandated to report abuse or neglect of a minor?

A: Both as a matter of University Policy and North Carolina State Law, any member of the University Community, including students, who reasonably suspects that a minor has been abused or neglected by a parent, guardian, caregiver, or staff member or is the victim of a violent offense, has an absolute obligation to report that suspicion to the appropriate County Department of Social Services.

Q: Am I protected if I make a report?

A: North Carolina law provides that anyone who makes a report in good faith or who participates in an investigation by the Department of Social Services will be protected from any criminal or civil liability that might arise from the individual's report or participation. University policy prohibits retaliation against anyone who makes a good faith report of abuse or neglect with regard to the terms and conditions of University employment or educational activities.

Q: What if I do not make a report?

A: North Carolina law makes it illegal to not report certain crimes against children. Any person or institution that has reason to suspect that a child is abused, neglected or dependent, or died as the result of maltreatment, or is the victim of a violent offense, you must report it. Failure to Report Gen. Stat. § 7B-301 Any person or institution who knowingly or wantonly fails to report the abuse as required, or who knowingly or wantonly prevents another person from making a report as required, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.



Certification

Instructions

1. Click on the link below to certify that you have completed this training:

https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bpx2nhHO5E803Vb

2. Enter your email when requested to receive a notice of completion to retain for your records.