



Definitions

I. Sullivan, Brookhouser & Scanlon, 2000

A. 1. Neglect...

"**Neglect..** is an act or acts or omission of the part of the caregiver responsible for the physical , emotional, intellectual and social well-being of the child...Along this continuum, neglect is classified as:

" Failure to educate a child or follow medical recommendations.

" Non-life-threatening lack of supervision or follow-through.

" Lack of adequate food, housing, and/or medical care.

" Life-threatening lack of adequate food, housing, and/or medical care."

B. 2. Physical Abuse...

"**Physical Abuse...**is defined as the consequences of events or acts of commission which:

" Are potentially injurious to the child.

" Encompass a tissue-damaging event or involve harmful restraint or control.

" Entail a serious physical injury requiring medical or dental services.

" Cause a fatality or life-threatening physical event.

An act of commission essentially means that the caregiver had the intention to harm, injure, maim or murder the child."

C. 4. Sexual Abuse...

"**Sexual abuse** is the exploitation of a child for any sexual gratification and includes rape, incest, fondling or the genitals, exhibitionism, and voyeurism. Sexual abuse is considered to be:

" Witnessing sexual activity between adults, adults and children and sexual abuse of other children.

" Fondling.

" Oral, genital, or digital penetration of genital abuse without penetration.

" Anal or vaginal intercourse or penetration."

1. indicators...

Table 1 Sexual Abuse - Physical Indicators

" Torn, stained or bloody underclothing

" Traumatized, painful and/or pruritic cervix, vulva, penis, perineum or anus

- " Bruises or lesions overlaying hard or soft palate and/or tonsillar pillars, including chancres
- " Semen about mouth, genitals or clothing
- " Presence of sexually transmitted disease (herpes, genital warts, venereal disease, syphilis, AIDS)
- " Pregnancy
- " Itching or scratching of genitals
- " Apparent pain in sitting or walking

(Adapted from Brookhouser, Sullivan, Scanlan & Garbarino, 1986)

a. [Sullivan, Vernon & Scanlon, 1987](#)

2. symptoms...

Behavioral symptoms

1. The child cries a lot and seems emotionally upset. Often these symptoms appear suddenly and for no apparent reason.
2. The child experiences bedwetting or fecal soiling even though he or she has been successfully toilet trained.
3. The child develops behaviors associated with precocious sexuality such as excessive masturbation, preoccupation with sex and sexual signs, sexual play with peers, and excessive use of explicit sexual language.
4. The child starts crying when diapers or clothes are changed.

5. Anxiety symptoms manifest, for example, nightmares, fear of the dark, insomnia, refusal to sleep alone, frequent bathing, and phobias.
6. The child becomes sullen or depressed.
7. Marked changes in behavior occur, such as a serious decline in the quality of school work, the sudden onset of agitation or hyperactivity, sullenness, depression, or excessive aggressiveness.
8. The child refuses to shower with a group or change clothes for gym class in front of other children, or show other signs of feeling ashamed of his or her body.
9. The child suddenly manifests fear, avoidance behaviors, or dislike of a caretaker, or of another child with whom he or she was previously friendly.
10. The child displays general characteristics of posttraumatic stress disorder.
11. If a teenager, the child becomes involved in substance abuse.
12. The child displays seductive behavior.
13. The child experiences sleep disturbances.
14. The child displays acting-out behaviors such as running away, withdrawal, and clinging.

Physical Symptoms

15. The child manifests hypochondria involving symptoms such as headaches, stomach pains, or psychosomatic complaints that do not make medical sense.
16. The child walks "funny" or has difficulty walking or is in pain when sitting or walking.
17. The child experiences itching and scratching or the genital or rectal area.
18. Rectal or vaginal bleeding or evidence of infection or swelling of the rectum or vagina is present.
19. Bruise or lacerations appear that the child cannot explain.
20. The child has torn, stained, or bloody underclothing.

(Sullivan et al. 1987)"

D. 3. Emotional or Psychological Abuse...

"Emotional or psychological abuse is difficulty to define and document. It is considered to occur when parents or caretakers verbally abuse children or place excessive and/or inappropriate demands on their emotional, social, and physical capabilities. "

II. [Sullivan, Vernon & Scanlon, 1987](#)

H. Johnson'08

A. Sexual Abuse...

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"Sexual abuse is the exploitation of a child under legal age who is developmentally incapable of understanding or resisting the sexual contact and who may be psychologically, physically or socially dependent upon the offender."

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[Vernon & Miller, 2002](#)