

Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Prevention

Annual Training for DDS Staff
Revised July 2010

- ❖ To review new policies and procedures in the areas of Abuse and Neglect, Prevention, Detection and Reporting
- ❖ To recognize reportable situations
- ❖ To report allegations of abuse or neglect, following DDS protocol
- ❖ To increase knowledge of signs of abuse and neglect
- ❖ To increase awareness of causes leading to abuse or neglect and take action to prevent it from occurring

Learning Objectives

1. What is abuse? What types of abuse are there?
2. What is neglect? Name some examples of neglect?
3. How do you report abuse or neglect? Who do you report abuse to?
4. Why are people reluctant to report abuse or neglect? Why is there abuse or neglect?
5. How could abuse and neglect be prevented? How would you know if abuse or neglect was occurring at your work site?

Small Group Discussions

The willful infliction by a caregiver of physical pain or injury, or the willful deprivation of services necessary to the physical safety of an individual.

Abuse

Acts that inflict emotional harm, invoke fear and/or humiliate, intimidate, degrade, demean or otherwise negatively impact the mental health or safety of an individual.



Psychological Abuse

The use of offensive and/or intimidating language that can provoke or upset an individual.

Verbal Abuse



The theft or misappropriation of property and/or monetary resources which are intended to be used for or by an individual.

Financial Exploitation

- The failure by a caregiver, through action or inaction, to provide an individual with the services necessary to maintain his or her physical or mental health and safety, including incidents of inappropriate or unwanted individual to individual sexual contact.
- Neglect also includes the failure of a caregiver to respond to incidents of inappropriate or unwanted sexual contact between individuals who receive services from the department.

Neglect

- Neglect is also a situation in which an individual lives alone and is not able to provide for him/herself the services which are necessary to maintain his/her physical, mental health or safety.

Neglect, continued



**Intervene,
protect
victim**



**Get
medical
assistance**



**Begin the
reporting
process**



**Support
the victim**

**What To Do If You Suspect
Abuse or Neglect Has Occurred?**

1. It is your responsibility to report allegations of abuse and neglect to the appropriate DDS Regional Abuse and Neglect Liaison & to the appropriate external state agency, depending on the age of the alleged victim.
2. You are obligated to be cooperative and honest and to provide written statements upon request.
3. **REMEMBER:** Verbal, Psychological and Financial Abuse are reported to the Regional Liaison, not to OPA (P&A).

Reporting Procedures

Abuse/Neglect Liaison:

PAULA ZEINER 860-263-2469

Lead Investigators:

GREG BRIGANDI 860-263-2513

North Region

Abuse and Neglect Contacts

Abuse/Neglect Liaison :

JOANNE BILOTTA 203-294-5077

Lead Investigators:

KENDRES LALLY 203-294-5011

THOMAS HABIB 203-294-5117

ROBERT MOYLAN 203-294-5066

South Region

Abuse and Neglect Contacts

Abuse/Neglect Liaison & Investigator:

CYNTHIA MILLER 203-586-2255

Nurse Investigators:

ROSE DIANE RYAN 203-586-2611

SANDYBARBERI 203-586-2612

**Southbury Training School
Abuse and Neglect Contacts**

Abuse/Neglect Liaison:

TAWNIA PACHECO 203-806-8742

Lead Investigators:

CRAIG BRADLEY 203-806-8780

JOSEPH INNAMORATO 203-806-8763

LEIGHANN TORRES 203-455-2010

West Region

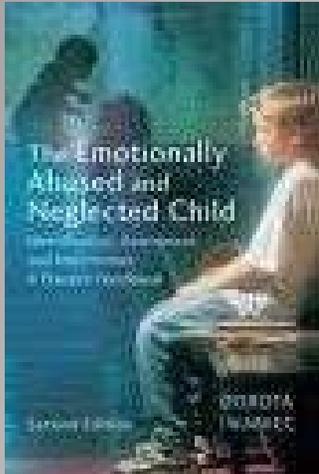
Abuse and Neglect Contacts

- Victim age 17 or under ➤ DCF: 800-842-2288
- Victim age 18 to 59 ➤ P&A: 800-842-7303
860-297-4300
- Victim age 60 or over ➤ DSS: Report to
Regional Liaison. S/he
will assist with your
report or dial 211 for
number of your
Regional Office

External State Agencies

Many people may not be able to tell you that they have been injured, abused or neglected. Therefore, it is important to watch for physical, emotional and behavioral changes. None of these behaviors alone confirm that abuse or neglect is happening; this list is only intended to be a resource to help in detecting possible abuse or neglect.

Recognizing Signs of Abuse and Neglect



Recognizing Signs of Abuse and Neglect



**YOU'RE
USELESS**



Examples of Abuse



Abuse and Neglect DVD

Show the Bethesda DVD entitled "Abuse and Neglect "



Sexual Abuse

**Recognition and
Prevention**

Any sexual contact or encouragement of sexual activity between a family member, paid staff or a volunteer and an individual, regardless of consent.

Sexual Abuse

- A return to past behavior patterns.
- Increased aggression.
- Unusual demands for affection or attention, or unusual withdrawal.
- Development of promiscuous behavior.
- Sudden avoidance or showing fear of a particular person or place.
- Knowledge of sexual behavior far too advanced for an individual's experience.

Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Difficulty sitting or problems walking.
- Pain, swelling, or itching in the genital area.
- Pain in urination.
- Discharge from the vagina or the penis.
- Bruises or bleeding in the genital or anal areas.
- *These are just a few of the possible signs of Sexual Assault.*

Signs of Sexual Abuse,
continued

- Victims can protect themselves so we do not have to.
- The victim or reporter is known to tell lies or make up stories.
- The alleged perpetrator is an upstanding member of the community.
- The alleged victim and perpetrator (non Staff) have had a previous relationship.
- Victim reports to staff, yet staff loyalty to one another prevents reporting.

Why Staff, Families, or Community Members do not Report?

- Given the language or verbal communication limitation, the staff assumes they are not receiving correct information.
- There is no physical evidence to corroborate the story.
- The victim is devalued, therefore no one believes the abuse is possible.

Why Staff, Families, or Community Members do not Report? Continued

- Victim enjoys the contact.
- Victim does not know he/she is being violated.
- Victim is told or feels that the interaction is special.
- Victim follows pacts of secrecy or coercion.
- Victim fears he/she did something wrong.
- Victim does not want to get anyone into trouble.
- Victim is embarrassed.

Why Victims do not Report?

- Stop the incident, protect victim.
- Do not disturb any physical evidence.
- Do not ask “why” questions. Do not press for details.
- Notify your supervisor or Manager on Duty, which ever is appropriate for your work location.

**What to do if you suspect
Sexual Abuse?**

- Supervisor or Manager on Duty will likely have client transported to the emergency room for a complete physical.
- Police will be notified.
- Abuse and Neglect Liaison and outside State Agency will be notified (DCF, P&A, DSS).
- Sexual assault crisis center may be notified.

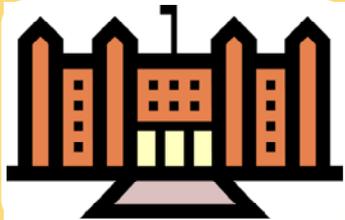
**What to do if you suspect
Sexual Abuse?** Continued



People with severe disabilities.



People living on their own with limited services and supports.



People living in congregated facilities

Who is most at risk?

- Someone the victim knows and trusts.
- The perpetrator can be anyone, gender, race, religion, and sexual orientation have no bearing on who will or will not sexually abuse someone.
- **REMEMBER:** The perpetrator is seeking power and control over his/her victim(s).

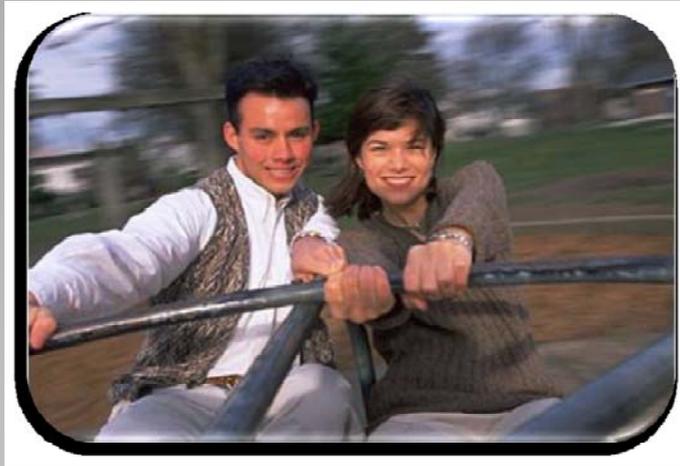
**Who may be a potential
Perpetrator?**

- Educate potential victim.
- Educate care provider.
- Teach people the difference between good touch and bad touch.
- Treat people with respect.
- Empower people to use their voices, teach them it is alright to say "no", and tell someone.
- Ensure safeguards when supporting especially vulnerable populations.

Prevention of Sexual Abuse

1. Is this abuse? If so, what type? (physical, verbal, psychological, sexual, financial) or Is it neglect?
2. How does it match the DDS definition?
3. Is it reportable? To whom?
4. What do you do if you were in this situation?
What do you do if you witness abuse?
5. If substantiated or not, defend the outcome with the information that you have.
6. What would you recommend to prevent future incidents?

Small Groups Given Scenario



**Prevention = Practice good
personal health & wellness habits**

- I.F. P.O.001, Abuse and Neglect Policy
- I.F. P.R.001, Abuse and Neglect/Allegations: Reporting and Intake Process
- I.F. P.R.002, Abuse and Neglect/Notifications: Allegations and Completed Investigations
- I.F. P.R.003, Abuse and Neglect/Investigations: Assignment, Tracking, Review, Completion...
- I.F. P.R.004, Abuse and Neglect/Investigations: Recommendations and Prevention Activities
- I.F. P.R.005, Abuse and Neglect/Registry: DDS Abuse and Neglect Registry

Based on Connecticut General Assembly Statutes

Resources



Thank you for being advocates for those individuals whom you support, and for your participation today

Have a great day !😊