



CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION, POLICY, AND PROCEDURES

Solid Rock Camp and Retreat Center

Goals

- To prevent instances of child abuse before they happen.
- To properly handle situations of child abuse should they arise.

Definition

- “Abuse” or “child abuse or neglect” means an act or omission in one of the following categories which threatens the health or welfare of a child: skin bruising, bleeding, tissue swelling, or death; any case in which a child is subjected to sexual assault or molestation, sexual exploitation, or prostitution; any case in which a child is in need of services because the child’s parents, legal guardian, or custodian fails to take the same actions to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision that a prudent parent would take.
- Any sexual exploitation of children under age 18 by an adult (or another child who is at least 4 years older than the victim) even if the child seems to consent to the sexual activity.
- Sexual abuse includes touching offenses and such non-touching offenses as verbal sexual stimulation, obscene phone calls, indecent exposure, peeping and causing or allowing a child to witness adult sexual relations.

Types Of Child Abuse And Neglect

- Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse (or psychological abuse) is a pattern of behavior that impairs a child’s emotional development or sense of self-worth. This may include constant criticism, threats, or rejection, as well as withholding love, support, or guidance.

- Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is any non-accidental physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) as a result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting (with a hand, stick, strap, or other object), burning, or otherwise harming a child, that is inflicted by a parent, caregiver, or other person who has responsibility for the child.

Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caregiver intended to hurt the child. Physical discipline, such as spanking or paddling, is not considered abuse as long as it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child.

- Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse includes activities by a parent or caregiver such as fondling a child’s genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.

Sexual abuse is defined by CAPTA as the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child ... to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct, for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct...or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.

- Neglect

Neglect is the failure of a parent, guardian, or other caregiver to provide for a child’s basic needs. Neglect comes in many forms, including **physical, medical, educational, and emotional neglect**.

- **Physical neglect**

Failure to provide for a child's basic needs, such as nutrition, clothing, shelter, hygiene, and medical care. Physical neglect may also involve inadequate supervision of a child and other forms of reckless disregard of the child's safety and welfare.

- **Abandonment**: the desertion of a child without arranging for his reasonable care or supervision.
- **Expulsion**: the blatant refusal of custody, such as the permanent or indefinite expulsion of a child from the home, without adequately arranging for his care by others or the refusal to accept custody of a returned runaway.
- **Shuttling**: when a child is repeatedly left in the custody of others for days or weeks at a time, possibly due to the unwillingness of the parent or the caregiver to maintain custody.
- **Nutritional neglect**: when a child is undernourished or is repeatedly hungry for long periods of time, which can sometimes be evidenced by poor growth. Nutritional neglect often is included in the category of "other physical neglect."
- **Clothing neglect**: when a child lacks appropriate clothing, such as not having appropriately warm clothes or shoes in the winter.
- **Other physical neglect**: includes inadequate hygiene and forms of reckless disregard for the child's safety and welfare (e.g., driving while intoxicated with the child, leaving a young child in a car unattended).

- **Medical neglect**

Failure to seek medical or dental treatment or to comply with medical advice for a health problem or condition that, if left untreated, could become severe enough to represent a danger to the child.

- **Denial of health care**: the failure to provide or to allow needed care as recommended by a competent health care professional for a physical injury, illness, medical condition, or impairment. **Delay in health care**: the failure to seek timely and appropriate medical care for a serious health problem that any reasonable person would have recognized as needing professional medical attention. Examples of a delay in health care include not getting appropriate preventive medical or dental care for a child, not obtaining care for a sick child, or not following medical recommendations. Not seeking adequate mental health care also falls under this category. A lack or delay in health care may occur because the family does not have health insurance.

- **Educational neglect**

Involves the failure of a parent or caregiver to enroll a child of mandatory school age in school or provide appropriate homeschooling or needed special education training, thus allowing the child or youth to engage in chronic truancy.

- **Permitted, chronic truancy**: permitting habitual absenteeism from school averaging at least 5 days a month if the parent or guardian is informed of the problem and does not attempt to intervene.
- **Failure to enroll or other truancy**: failing to homeschool, to register, or to enroll a child of mandatory school age, causing the child to miss at least 1 month of school without valid reasons.
- **Inattention to special education needs**: refusing to allow or failing to obtain recommended remedial education services or neglecting to obtain or follow through with treatment for a child's diagnosed learning disorder or other special education need without reasonable cause.

Institutional Abuse

Some children reside in an institution, and child protective service employees must address their safety while they are in an institution's care. It is possible that any form of abuse or neglect may occur while a child is in the care of an institution. If the maltreatment is caused by employees of the institution, it is classified as institutional abuse.

Whenever anyone is aware of any form of child maltreatment occurring while the child is in the care of an institution, you should make a report.

The information contained on this page is intended for educational purposes only.

Please refer to the state statutes for legal definitions.

If you see or hear something that concerns you, pick up the phone and call the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline to report **1-844-CO-4-KIDS** (1-844-264-5437). You dial the number. We'll make the call.



Accessed October 8, 2015; <https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/cdhs-dcw/reportchildabuse>

Prevention

- Contact between adults and children should always take place in open places, or in a room with a door open, preferably with another adult present or at the very least within listening distance. Contact with campers should be recorded with the Head Counselor or Director any time that it happens without the presence of another adult.
- One-on-one counseling, if necessary, should be done by an adult of the same sex.
- Touching children is an important way of communicating but must be done most carefully. Touching above the shoulder and half-hugs are safe yet effective ways of relating to children.
- Handholding is acceptable with grade school children but is best when done in the presence of another adult.
- Staff members should never be off camp grounds alone with a camper. Staff members should never be alone with another staff member under the age of 18, and being alone with older staff members of the opposite sex is discouraged.
- Campers are not allowed to be in bed with a counselor, junior counselor, staff member or another camper, even if they are frightened.
- Watch for inappropriate behavior including relations between staff members at all times on camp grounds, off camp grounds, and in the presence of campers. This includes back rubs, touching, kissing, hugs, hand-holding, etc. Remember, appearances are important.
- Notify the Director of any unusual events or reactions by a camper.
- Notify the Camp Director of any suspicions of child or sexual abuse. Remember, you aren't betraying a friend. You may be helping a child, protecting the adult from a false accusation or even saving the reputation and future ministry of Solid Rock Camp and Retreat Center.

Actual Situations

- After reporting any known or suspected cases of child or sexual abuse (anyone misusing their authority over a child) by calling the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-CO4-KIDS (1-800-264-5437), report the abuse or neglect to the Director.
- Only the Director will be allowed to talk to the press. When asked, the press will be informed only that there has been a suspected case of child abuse, the suspected offender(s) has/have been removed from their position, the authorities have been contacted as well as the child's parents, and names have been withheld to protect the child and the suspected adult. A copy of our policy will be made available to all members of the press if they ask.
- Only the Director will confront the suspect after the safety of the child has been ensured.
- Staff members and counselors should, under no circumstance, talk to other staff members, campers or people outside of camp about the situation (other than authorized personnel who are investigating the occurrence).

Reporting Child Abuse Situations

- Under the “Child Protection Act of 1987 “ (C.R.S. 19-3-301) in the Colorado Children’s Code, childcare center workers are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect. The law at 19-3-304 states that if a child care worker has “reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or who has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately report or cause a report to be made of such fact to the county department or local law enforcement agency.”
- If at any time a staff member reasonably suspects child abuse, it is the responsibility of staff member to report or to cause a report to be made of suspicion by calling the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-CO4-KIDS (1-800-264-5437). It is not the staff’s role to investigate suspected abuse--only to report it. Persons who make a good faith report are immune from civil and criminal liability. Additionally, the law provides for the protection of the identity of the reporting party.
- The staff member will make the report by calling 1-800-CO4-KIDS (1-800-264-5437), then notify the director or his designee. If the staff member prefers, she/he may meet with the director or designee and make the official report to authorities together.
- A child care worker who fails to report suspected child abuse or neglect commits a class 3 misdemeanor and will be punished as provided in section 18-1-106, C.R.S. The staff person could also be liable for damages “proximately caused thereby.”