



The Central Minnesota Child Advocacy Center helps children when there is a concern of child maltreatment. Our goal is to provide a child-friendly environment where we can support, advocate for, and educate children and families.

At our office, a team of individuals work together to ensure that children and their families get access to appropriate medical and mental health services. This team approach is used to guarantee we put children's safety first and to ensure children receive supportive care throughout the entire process.

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE

Unexplained Bruise(s) or Laceration(s)

- On face, lips, mouth, gums
- On torso, back, buttocks, thighs
- In various stages of healing
- Clustered, forming a regular pattern
- Reflecting shape of item used to inflict (example: electric cord, belt buckle, etc.)
- On several different surface areas
- Bite marks
- To external genitalia

Unexplained Burn(s)

- Cigar/cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms, back, or buttocks
- Immersion burns: sock-like, glove-like, doughnut shaped on buttocks or genitalia, patterned like electric burner, iron
- Rope burns on arms, legs, neck, torso

Unexplained fractures

- Skull, nose, or facial structure
- Various stages of bone healing on x-ray(s)
- Multiple fractures
- In child younger than 3 years old, without reliable explanation or witness
- Spiral fractures (caused by twisting motion(s))

Behavioral Indicators

- Wary of adult contact
- Apprehensive when other children cry
- Behavioral extremes, aggressiveness, or withdrawal
- Frightened of caregivers or certain persons
- Afraid to go home or certain places
- Reports injury by caregivers or certain person

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

- Pain or itching of genital area, accompanied by blood or discharge
- Pain with urination or stooling
- Lack of anal sphincter control
- Bruising or lacerations in genitalia, vaginal or anal area
- Sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy in child under 16
- Sexualized play/knowledge inappropriate for child's age
- Child reports sexual assault
- Unexplained changes in sleep patterns
- Self-destructive behavior, such as self-mutilation, eating problems, or suicidal actions

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF CHILD EMOTIONAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT

- Speech/developmental lags
- Failure to thrive
- Habit disorders
- Conduct Disorders
- Consistent hunger, poor hygiene
- Unattended medical needs
- Begging, stealing food
- Extended stays at school; early arrival, late departure
- Constant fatigue and listlessness
- Attempted suicide
- Overly adaptive behavior; inappropriately adult or inappropriately infant
- Psychoneurotic reactions; hysteria, obsession, compulsion, phobias, hypochondria
- Behavior extremes
- Reports no caretaker

At this time, referrals for our services must come from local law enforcement or county human services.

Our staff will gladly answer any questions or provide additional information directly at: 320-229-5105 ext. 1

Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.centracare.com/services/child-advocacy-center/>

