



The State University
of New York

Child Protection Policies Training

Prepared by:
SUNY Office of General Counsel
SUNY Compliance Office

2015



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Child Protection Policies Training

**Module 2: Defining & Recognizing Child Abuse
Reporting Threshold**

**Prepared by:
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Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Child Protection Policies Training

SUNY

Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Before we discuss SUNY's policies in detail, let's first take a **step back** to define child sexual abuse and child physical abuse and what it means within the context of SUNY's policies.



STEP BACK

Child Protection Policy

Definition of Physical Abuse

(Definition from the SUNY Child Protection Policy)

Physical Abuse: Physical contact with a child by a covered person which is intended to cause, or causes, pain or physical injury, including punching, beating, shaking, throwing, kicking, biting and burning, or directing a child, outside the norm of the supervised activity, to perform physical activity which is intended to cause physical injury.

Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Indicators of Child Physical Abuse

- **Frequent injuries of any kind (bruises, cuts, burns), especially if the child is unable to provide an adequate explanation of the cause.**
 - Injuries may appear in distinctive patterns such as grab marks, human bite marks, cigarette burns, or impressions of other instruments.
 - Human bites compress flesh causing bruises; animal bites normally tear the flesh.
- **Injuries to both sides of the head or body.**
 - Accidental injuries typically only affect one side of the body.

Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Indicators of Child Physical Abuse

- **Injuries to the nose**
 - Bleeding
 - Swelling
 - Deviation of the bone
- **Injuries to the mouth**
 - Bleeding
 - Swelling
 - Loose or missing teeth
 - Bruises from gags
- **Injuries to the eyes**
 - Hemorrhages

Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Indicators of Child Physical Abuse

- **Injuries to the ears**
 - Bleeding
 - Twisting injuries of the lobe
 - Bruises
- **Injuries to the head**
 - Bald patches caused by hair pulling
 - Paralysis of facial muscles
 - Bruises on the face
- **Injuries to the abdomen**
 - May cause vomiting

Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Indicators of Child Physical Abuse

- **Skin Injuries**
 - Lacerations, bruises and welts resembling the shape of the instrument used (strap marks, belt buckles, looped cords; electrical cords).
 - The presence of multiple skin injuries in various stages of healing.
 - Presence of multiple old and new bruises.
 - Choke marks on the neck.
 - Rope burns or blisters, especially around the wrists or ankles.
 - Bruises on the back of the legs.

Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Indicators of Child Physical Abuse

- **Skin Injuries - Burns**
 - Burns in geometric shapes.
 - Contact burns involving both palms.
 - Burns or blisters on the backs of the hands.
 - Immersion burns (sock-like; glove-like).
 - Cigarette burns.
 - Burns on areas typically protected by clothing.
 - Blistering from chemical burns.

Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Indicators of Child Physical Abuse

- **Skeletal Injuries without Fracture**
 - Tenderness at joints (from pulling, jerking or dislocation).
 - Tenderness in the ribs.

Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Behavioral Indicators of Child Physical Abuse

- **Destructive, aggressive or disruptive behavior.**
 - Aggression towards peers or siblings
 - Apprehensive when other children cry
 - Destruction of property; vandalism
- **Passive, withdrawn, or emotionless behavior.**
 - Child shies away from touch; flinches at sudden movement; is wary of adults
- **Behavioral extremes: aggressiveness – withdrawal.**
- **Fear of going home; of parent(s); of caregiver(s).**
- **Seeks affection from any adult.**
- **Wears long-sleeved or similar clothing to hide injuries.**

Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Child Protection Policy

Definition of Sexual Abuse

(Definition from the SUNY Child Protection Policy)

Sexual Abuse: Engaging in a sexual offense with a child and/or encouraging or promoting sexual performance by a child. Pursuant to the NYS Penal Law Articles 130, 263, and Sections 260.10 and 260.25, sexual offenses include: **sexual misconduct, rape, criminal sex acts, forcible touching, persistent sexual abuse, sexual abuse, aggravated sexual abuse, course of sexual conduct against a child, facilitating a sex offense with a controlled substance, sexually motivated felony, predatory sexual assault against a child, and sexual performance by a child.** This also includes Penal Law offenses relating to children including endangering the welfare of a child and unlawfully dealing with a child in the first degree. Sexual performance by a child, as defined by the Penal Law, is any behavior which results in touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of a child for the purpose of sexual gratification of the child and/or adult, including touching by the child and/or adult with or without clothing, and all acts as defined by New York State Penal Law Articles 130, 263 and Section 260.10.

Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Physical Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse

- **Injury to genital area.**
 - Pain or itching in genital area
 - Difficulty in walking or sitting
 - Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia
- **Symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases.**
 - Including oral venereal infections
- **Torn, stained or bloody underclothing.**
- **Pregnancy, especially in early adolescent years.**

Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Defining and Recognizing Child Abuse

Behavioral Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse

- **Unwillingness to change clothing for athletic/physical activities.**
- **Withdrawal, fantasy or infantile behavior.**
- **Sexually suggestive, inappropriate, promiscuous or seductive behavior or verbalization.**
- **Poor peer relationships.**
- **Expression of age-inappropriate knowledge of sexual relations.**
- **Sexual victimization of other children.**
- **Exaggerated fear of closeness or physical contact.**
- **Self-injurious behavior.**

Source: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Reporting Physical or Sexual Abuse

When to Report

**REASONABLE
CAUSE TO SUSPECT
=
REPORT**

Reporting Physical or Sexual Abuse

Reasonable Cause to Suspect

“Reasonable cause to suspect” means that based on your rational observations and experience, you have a suspicion that the child is being physically or sexually abused.

Reporting Physical or Sexual Abuse

Reasonable Cause to Suspect

- **“Reasonable cause to suspect” means you have a logical basis to suspect.**
- **You do not need proof or certainty.**
- **“Reasonable cause” can be doubt or distrust of a child’s explanation for injuries.**

Adapted from: *NYS Office of Children & Family Services “Summary Guide for Mandated Reporters”*; and *“Concerned Citizen’s Guide.”*

Reporting Physical or Sexual Abuse

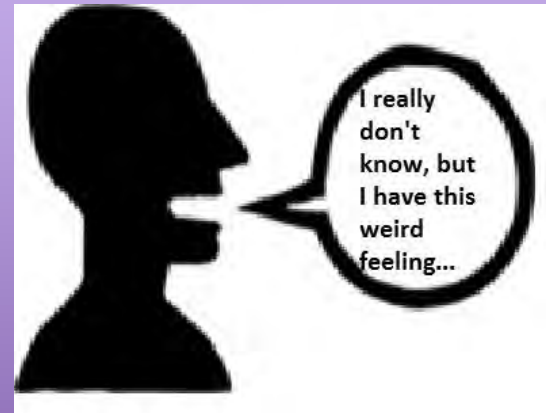
Reasonable Cause to Suspect

Report each instance of physical or sexual abuse that you have reasonable cause to suspect.

Retaliation is Prohibited

The SUNY Child Protection Policy prohibits retaliatory action against anyone acting in good faith, who has reported alleged physical abuse or sexual abuse in accordance with the policy, or who is involved in investigating or responding to allegations of physical or sexual abuse.

Don't be silent



REPORT

Retaliation is Prohibited

Report whenever you have reasonable cause to suspect physical or sexual abuse of a child.

The Child Protection Policy prohibits:

- Retaliatory employment actions affecting salary, promotion, job duties, work schedules and locations;
- Retaliatory actions negatively impacting a student's academic record or progress;
- Any retaliatory action affecting the campus environment, including harassment and intimidation.





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END

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