

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TIPS

- Never discipline your child when your anger is out of control
- Participate in your child's activities and get to know your child's friends
- Be aware of your child's actions on the internet, social networking sites, and websites
- Never leave your child unattended, especially in the car
- Teach your child to use their voice to allow them to prevent abuse in their own life
- Ask questions
- Listen to them and believe what they say
- Be aware of changes in your child's behavior or attitude
- Teach your child what to do if you and your child become separated while away from home
- Teach your child the correct names of his or her private body parts
- Be alert for any talk that reveals premature sexual understanding
- Pay attention when someone shows greater than normal interest in your child
- Make certain your child's school or day care center will release him or her only to you or someone you officially designate

Reporting Child Abuse

If you suspect a child is being harmed, contact your State Child Abuse Hotline, local child protective services (CPS), or law enforcement agency so professionals can assess the situation. For more information about where and how to file a report, call ChildhelpUSA, National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-4-A-CHILD).

Resources

Prevent Child Abuse America
1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)
www.preventchildabuse.org

Childhelp Hotline
1-800-4-A-CHILD • (1-800-422-4453)
www.childhelp.org

Metropolitan Center for Women and Children 24 Hour Crisis Hotline
(504) 837-5400

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
(Domestic Abuse Protective Orders)
(504) 529-1000

Catholic Charities
(504) 523-3755

Children's Bureau
(504) 525-2366

Louisiana Child Abuse Hotline
855-4LA-KIDS • (855-452-5437)

Department of Child and Family Services
(504) 361-6161—Westbank
(504) 361-6800—Eastbank

LaChip - No Cost Health Care for Children
1-877-252-2247 • www.LaCHIP.org



Paul D. Connick, Jr.

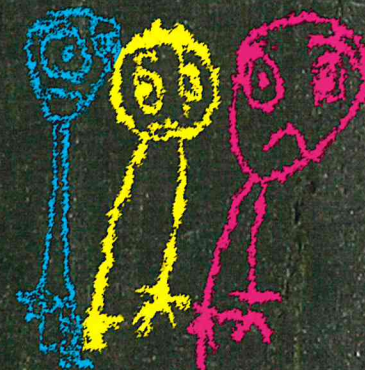
Jefferson Parish District Attorney
Victim-Witness Assistance Program
Family Violence Prosecution Unit

200 Derbigny Street • Gretna, LA 70053 • (504) 368-1020

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Imagine A World Without Child Abuse



"It shouldn't
hurt to be
a child."



Paul D. Connick, Jr.
District Attorney, Jefferson Parish

Child Abuse Facts

Child abuse happens in all cultural, ethnic, and income groups. Child abuse can be physical, emotional, verbal, sexual or through neglect. Abuse may cause serious injury to the child and may even result in death.

Specific types of child abuse

Physical Abuse involves physical harm or injury to the child.

Sexual Abuse is any sexual act committed upon a child under the age of 17 or the exposure of a child to sexual behavior or pornographic material

Physical Neglect occurs when parents fail to provide the child with the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter, clothing, and medical care.

Emotional Maltreatment can severely damage a child's mental health or social development. It occurs in two main forms. The first includes verbal insults or attacks aimed at the child. The second is when the parent neglects to provide a child with consistent love, support, and guidance.



Recognizing the warning signs of child abuse

Signs of emotional maltreatment:

- The child may be excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious
- The child is unattached to the caregiver
- The child may live in an environment where illegal narcotics are sold or used

Signs of physical abuse:

- The child may have frequent or unexplained injuries
- The child may wear inappropriate clothing or makeup to cover up bruises
- The child may have unexplained school absences

Signs of sexual abuse:

- The child may have trouble walking or sitting
- The child may have torn, stained, or bloody underclothes
- The child may be excessively withdrawn, tearful, or anxious

Victims of physical neglect:

- The child may have ill-fitting clothes and consistently bad hygiene
- The child may be frequently unsupervised

Helping an abused or neglected child:

- When talking to an abused child, the best thing you can provide is calm reassurance and unconditional support
- Avoid denial of the situation and remain calm
- Don't interrogate the child, simply listen
- Reassure the child that he or she did not do anything wrong

Effects of child abuse

Physical Effects:

- The immediate physical effects of abuse can range from relatively minor, such as a bruise or cut, to severe, such as broken bones, internal bleeding, or even death
- Long-term effects may include:
 - Impaired brain development
 - Lifelong poor physical health

Psychological Effects:

- The immediate psychological effects of abuse and neglect are:
 - Isolation
 - Fear
 - Lack of Trust
- These immediate effects can spiral into long-term mental health consequences including:
 - Depression and anxiety
 - Low self-esteem
 - Suicide attempts

Behavioral Effects:

- Studies have found abused or neglected children to be at least 25 percent more likely to experience problems in adolescence, including:
 - Delinquency
 - Drug use
 - Low academic achievement
- As adults, children who experienced abuse or neglect have an increased likelihood of criminal behavior, involvement in violent crime, or abuse of alcohol