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| **If a Child Makes an Outcry …**  Listen to the child, but do not ask questions about the incident. Doing so could influence the child’s story, which may prevent police and [*State Adult/Child Welfare Agency*] from getting an accurate description of the incident. Reassure the child that telling an adult was the right thing to do and that you will help keep them safe.  Even if you do not have the “whole story” or all of the details, making a report to [*State Adult/Child Welfare Agency*] is recommended.1 Child welfare experts are trained to determine the need for follow-up action after reports are made. Do not ignore any form of disclosure or statements.  1 [*All agencies should review state statutes regarding mandated reporting.*] | |  | | --- | | **Who Can Help?**  [*Agency*] Victim Services can assist you with information regarding victims’ rights, Crime Victim Compensation, case status, navigation of the criminal justice system, and referrals to the appropriate community resources or helping professionals or organizations according to your specific needs.  **Resources**  Local Resources  [*Insert state Crime Victims’ Compensation information*]  [*Insert other relevant local resources*]  National Resource  **Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)**  1-877-894-8463  [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)  **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)**  800-843-5678  [www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org)  **Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline**  800-422-4453  [www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)  **National Domestic Violence Hotline**  800-799-7233  [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)    This publication was produced under [*Grant Number*] awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this draft publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.  [*Revision Date*] | | |  | | --- | | **Crimes Against**  **Children:**  **A Guide for Non-Parents**  **(other responsible adults**  **in a child’s life)**  **[*Agency*] Victim**  **Adult Grief and Loss**  **Adult Grief and Loss**  **Services**  **[*address*]**  **[*phone number*]**  **[*Insert Agency logo*]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  Name/ID Number:  Direct Number: | |
| **Crimes Against Children**  Children are susceptible to becoming victims of crime because they are dependent on others and often lack experience.  Examples of crimes against children may include: [*Agencies should use terminology defined by state statute.*]   * Injury to a child: intentionally or recklessly causing bodily injury, serious mental deficiency, or impairment to a child. * Sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, or attempted sexual assault of a child. * Other sexual offenses including continuous sexual abuse, indecency, prohibited sexual conduct, solicitation, child sexual performance. * Child abandonment/neglect: leaving a child without providing reasonable and necessary care for the child. * Child endangerment including placing a child in imminent danger of death, bodily injury, or physical or mental impairment; possession, use or manufacturing of certain controlled substances in the presence of a child; or exposing a child to a controlled substance. * Leaving a young child unattended in a vehicle   **Child Maltreatment**  There are four major types of child maltreatment: physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. While acts ofchild maltreatment do not always constitute *criminal* offenses, they are very harmful and may lead to severe injury, emotional trauma, or death.  The legal definitions can differ from the social definitions of these terms. For example, some may consider spanking as physical abuse. However, criminal code may define physical abuse as using an instrument to inflict pain and leave a mark. | **Warning Signs**  The following descriptions are not necessarily proof of physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and/or emotional abuse, but they may be indicators that a problem exists.  **Physical Abuse Indicators:**   * Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns without adequate explanations. * Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injuries * Burns or bruises in unusual patterns that may indicate the use of a body part or object to cause harm (e.g., bruises in the shape of a hand or fingers, bruises in the shape of a belt buckle) * Human bites or cigarette burns on any part of the body. * Reduced or no reaction to pain. * Aggressive, disruptive, and destructive behavior * Passive, withdrawn, and emotionless behavior. * Fear of going home or seeing parents or specific people. * Injuries that appear after a child has not been seen for several days. * Clothing that may hide injuries to arms or legs (e.g., coats indoors or sweatshirts during summertime)   **Neglect Indicators:**   * Obvious malnourishment * Lack of personal cleanliness * Torn or dirty clothing * Stealing, begging for, or hoarding food * Unattended for long periods of time * Unmet health needs (e.g., glasses, dental care, medical attention) * Frequent tardiness or absence from school   **Sexual Abuse Indicators:**   * Physical signs of sexually transmitted diseases * Evidence of injury to the genital area * Pregnancy * Difficulty in sitting or walking. * Extreme fear of being alone with adults of a certain sex. * Sexual comments, behaviors, or play * Knowledge of sexual relations beyond what is expected for the child’s age. * Sexual victimization of other children | **Emotional Abuse Indicators:**   * An exaggerated eagerness to please certain adults * Low self-esteem * Withdrawn * Mood swings * Severe depression, anxiety, or aggression * Difficulty making friends or doing things with other children. * Lagging in physical, emotional, and intellectual development * A caregiver who belittles the child, withholds love, and seems unconcerned about the child’s problems.   **Additional risk factors** such as violence within the household or caregiver’s drug and/or alcohol abuse may also indicate that child maltreatment is occurring.  **How to Report …**  **If you suspect child abuse or neglect or if a child makes an outcry to you about abuse or neglect, you are encouraged to report it and, depending on your profession (e.g. teacher, therapist, medical professional, clergy), you may be required by law to report it.2**  [*Insert state-specific mandated reporting requirements*]  *Contact law enforcement AND* [*State Adult/Child Welfare Agency*]  **Report Abuse or Neglect to [*State Adult/Child Welfare Agency*]:**  **[*Insert contact information*]**  2 [*All agencies should review state statutes regarding mandated reporting.*] |