Suspect Abuse or Neglect?
Take Action!

Be Aware:
Signs can be **SUBTLE**. Look for:
- Signs of injury
- Changes in behavior, mood or communication
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns

Document your observations. **PATTERNS** can develop over time.

Act Immediately:
Ensure the **IMMEDIATE SAFETY** of the victim.

- **REPORT** and **DOCUMENT** the matter according to your agency’s abuse policy and procedures and **REPORT** to:
  1. The police
  2. Agency administration
  3. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

- **DO NOT DISCUSS** the matter with anyone who is not directly involved in the reporting and documentation procedure (e.g., colleagues, friends, residents).

Legal Requirement to Report:
In some cases, abuse is considered a **CRIMINAL OFFENCE** under the Criminal Code of Canada. Examples of criminal offences are:
- Physical or sexual assault
- Failure to provide the necessities of life
- Negligence causing bodily harm

Agencies are **REQUIRED BY LAW** to report to the police any suspected abuse that may constitute a criminal offence. The police have the **EXPERTISE** to determine if a criminal offence has taken place.

Zero Tolerance of Abuse:
A zero tolerance of abuse means that **ANY** and **ALL** abusive actions must be reported and addressed.

- **REPORT EVEN IF** someone else says they are going to.
- **REPORT EVEN IF** you promised the victim you wouldn’t tell anyone.