

# Signs That May Indicate Abuse and/or Neglect

**Some signs of abuse are easier to spot than others. One or more of the following signs may indicate abuse or neglect:**

- ➔ Bruising
- ➔ Torn clothing
- ➔ Bleeding from vaginal or anal orifices
- ➔ Repeated illnesses or injuries, especially ones with no clear cause
- ➔ Aggression
- ➔ Excessive compliance, depression or withdrawal
- ➔ Nightmares
- ➔ Self-destructive behaviour
- ➔ Sudden change in feelings about a specific person or place
- ➔ Lack of attachment to caregivers

**Sometimes neglect is harder to identify. Indicators of neglect may include:**

- ➔ Missing key articles of clothing
- ➔ Over or under-dressed for weather conditions
- ➔ Height and weight significantly below age level
- ➔ Persistent hunger
- ➔ Trouble concentrating
- ➔ Low self-esteem
- ➔ Body odour
- ➔ Consistently dirty and/or severely unkempt appearance
- ➔ Sleepiness/always tired