

## Signs of abuse

### Children

Neglect	Physical Abuse
<p>They may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be smelly or dirty</li> <li>• have unwashed clothes</li> <li>• have inadequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat</li> <li>• seem hungry or turn up to lessons without having breakfast or any lunch money</li> </ul> <p>They may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• untreated injuries, medical and dental issues</li> <li>• repeated accidental injuries caused by lack of supervision</li> <li>• recurring illnesses or infections</li> <li>• not been given appropriate medicines</li> <li>• poor muscle tone or prominent joints</li> <li>• skin sores, rashes, flea bites, scabies or ringworm</li> <li>• thin or swollen tummy</li> <li>• anaemia</li> <li>• tiredness</li> <li>• faltering weight or growth and not reaching developmental milestones (known as failure to thrive)</li> <li>• poor language, communication or social skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unexplained bruising, marks or injuries on any part of the body</li> <li>• Multiple bruises – in clusters, often on the upper arm, outside of the thigh</li> <li>• Cigarette burns</li> <li>• Human bite marks</li> <li>• Broken bones</li> <li>• Scalds</li> <li>• Scarring</li> <li>• Effects of poisoning such as vomiting, drowsiness or seizures</li> <li>• Respiratory problems from drowning, suffocation or poisoning</li> </ul>
	Emotional Abuse
<p><b>Sexual Abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain or itching in the genital area</li> <li>• Bruising or bleeding near genital area</li> <li>• Sexually transmitted disease</li> <li>• Use Inappropriate language or behaviour</li> </ul>	<p>Changes in emotions are a normal part of growing up, so it can be really difficult to tell if a child is being emotionally abused.</p> <p>Children may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use language, act in a way or know about things that you wouldn't expect them to know for their age</li> <li>• struggle to control strong emotions or have extreme outbursts</li> <li>• seem isolated from their parents</li> <li>• lack social skills or have few, if any, friends.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stomach pains</li> <li>• Discomfort when walking or sitting down</li> <li>• Pregnancy</li> <li>• Have unexplained gifts or money</li> </ul>

### Adults

Physical Abuse	Psychological or Emotional Abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No or inconsistent explanation for injuries</li> <li>• Injuries are inconsistent with the person's lifestyle</li> <li>• Bruising, cuts, welts, burns and/or marks on the body or loss of hair in clumps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawal or change in the psychological state of the person</li> <li>• Insomnia</li> <li>• Uncooperative and aggressive behaviour</li> <li>• A change of appetite, weight loss/gain</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequent injuries</li> <li>Unexplained falls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signs of distress: tearfulness or anger</li> </ul>
<b>Sexual Abuse</b>	<b>Financial Abuse</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruising, particularly to the thighs, buttocks and upper arms and marks on the neck</li> <li>Bleeding, pain or itching in the genital area</li> <li>Unusual difficulty in walking or sitting</li> <li>The uncharacteristic use of explicit sexual language</li> <li>Fear of receiving help with personal care</li> <li>Fear of a particular person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unexplained withdrawal of funds from accounts</li> <li>The family or others show unusual interest in the assets of the person</li> <li>Disparity between the person's living conditions and their financial resources, e.g. insufficient food in the house</li> </ul>
<b>Discriminatory Abuse</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The person appears withdrawn and isolated</li> <li>Expressions of anger, frustration, fear or anxiety</li> <li>The support on offer does not take account of the person's individual needs in terms of a protected characteristic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical evidence of violence such as bruising, cuts, broken bones</li> <li>Verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others</li> <li>Fear of outside intervention</li> <li>Damage to home or property</li> <li>Isolation – not seeing friends and family</li> <li>Limited access to money</li> </ul>
<b>Modern Slavery</b>	<b>Organisation/Institutional Abuse</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signs of physical or emotional abuse</li> <li>Appearing to be malnourished, unkempt or withdrawn</li> <li>Isolation from the community, seeming under the control or influence of others</li> <li>Lack of personal effects or identification documents</li> <li>Always wearing the same clothes</li> <li>Avoidance of eye contact, appearing frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of flexibility/choice for service users</li> <li>People being hungry or dehydrated</li> <li>Poor standards of care</li> <li>Lack of personal clothing and possessions and communal use of personal items</li> <li>Lack of adequate procedures</li> <li>Poor record-keeping and missing documents</li> <li>Few social, recreational and educational activities</li> <li>Public discussion of personal matters</li> </ul>
<b>Neglect or Acts of Omission</b>	<b>Self Neglect</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor environment – dirty or unhygienic</li> <li>Poor physical condition and/or personal hygiene</li> <li>Malnutrition or unexplained weight loss</li> <li>Accumulation of untaken medication</li> <li>Uncharacteristic failure to engage in social interaction</li> <li>Inappropriate or inadequate clothing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very poor personal hygiene</li> <li>Unkempt appearance</li> <li>Lack of essential food, clothing or shelter</li> <li>Malnutrition and/or dehydration</li> <li>Neglecting household maintenance</li> <li>Hoarding</li> <li>Inability or unwillingness to take medication or treat illness or injury</li> </ul>

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