

What is Child Neglect?

Child neglect is the failure – intentional or unintentional of a parent to meet a child's basic needs.

There are three main forms of child neglect: physical, emotional and educational.



Physical Neglect:

Physical neglect is the failure to provide:

- ♣ Food – a balanced diet
- ♣ Shelter – a clean and safe home
- ♣ Clothing
- ♣ Health Care – regular medical and dental care
- ♣ Protection – adequate supervision at all times

Signs of physical neglect:

- ▽ Failure to thrive physically
- ▽ Unkempt appearance
- ▽ Untreated speech disorders
- ▽ Consistent hunger
- ▽ Poor hygiene
- ▽ Abandonment

Emotional Neglect:

Emotional neglect is the failure to provide:

- Consistent love and nurturing
- Encouragement
- Comfort
- Protection from an abusive person

Signs of emotional abuse:

- * Drug or alcohol abuse by the child
- * Lack of parental concern for the safety and supervision of the child
- * Low self-esteem and low confidence

Educational Neglect:

Educational neglect is the failure to:

- ✎ Enroll child/children in school
- ✎ Ensure that s/he/they attend school regularly
- ✎ Address special education needs

Indicators of educational neglect:

- ✎ Failure to attend school regularly
- ✎ Lack of school books, uniform, lunch, other school supplies
- ✎ Failure to progress intellectually

What Can I Do About Neglect?

If you know or suspect that a child is being neglected please report it to your nearest Probation & Welfare Department. Or call Help & Shelter at 227-3454

Behaviours Associated With Neglect:

- ✎ Not wanting to go home from school
- ✎ Frequent absence from school
- ✎ Consistent fatigue, listlessness
- ✎ Falling asleep in class
- ✎ Running away
- ✎ Thumb sucking
- ✎ Sleeping disorders
- ✎ Hysteria, obsession
- ✎ Passive-aggressive behaviour
- ✎ Anti-social and destructive behaviours
- ✎ Attempted suicide
- ✎ Alcohol and drug abuse
- ✎ Isolation
- ✎ Depression
- ✎ Promiscuity



Why Does Child Neglect Occur?

Parents are more likely to neglect their children if:

- ℙ They were neglected as children
- ℙ They are isolated with little or no support
- ℙ They abuse drugs or alcohol
- ℙ They are experiencing stress due to marital problems, unemployment or ill-health
- ℙ Financial stress

If you experience any of the following, please contact Help & Shelter for help

- ▲ You feel lonely and isolated with no one to turn to
- ▲ You feel nervous and unable to cope
- ▲ You feel you have no control
- ▲ You feel that you are not a good parent
- ▲ You are depressed
- ▲ Your problems seem overwhelming
- ▲ You are afraid of what you might do to your child
- ▲ You sometimes hurt your child
- ▲ You experience sexual feelings towards your/ any child
- ▲ You suspect that your child or another child may be experiencing abuse

Services Offered by Help & Shelter

- ✪ Counselling for all forms of abuse
- ✪ Support through the court experience for victims of rape and child sexual abuse
- ✪ Consciousness raising for the community
- ✪ Training new volunteers
- ✪ School talks to educate young people about violence

Our Phone Number: **227- 3454**
When can you call: **24 hours/day, 7 days/week**
Who will talk with you: **A trained counsellor**

*** All information is confidential**

If you want more information about child neglect, please look at some of our other brochures or contact Help & Shelter.



Help & Shelter

Next to the Ministry of Housing
Bottom Flat
Homestretch Avenue
D'Urban Park
Georgetown

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Help & Shelter

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**Child neglect is a crime.
Here's what you need to know....**