Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Presentation to Indiana School Boards Association
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Indiana children will live in safe, healthy, and supportive families and communities.

Your Presenters Are:

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Our Mission

The Indiana Department of Child Services engages with families and collaborates with state, local, and community partners to protect children from abuse and neglect and to provide child support services.

Vision: Indiana children will live in safe, healthy, and supportive families and communities.
Core Functions:
• Protect and keep children safe from abuse & neglect.
• Receive reports of abuse & neglect.
• Complete assessments on reports.
• Ongoing case management to guide a family through services, placement, permanency and case closure.
Indiana children will live in safe, healthy, and supportive families and communities.

DCS Education Services Team
Indiana children will live in safe, healthy, and supportive families and communities.
Education Liaisons Can Help

• **EL Roles and Responsibilities**
DCS Education Liaisons are referred in to assist...

- **If the child:**
  - Has poor or failing grades
  - Has behavioral issues at school
  - Has an IEP/504 but is not demonstrating school success
  - Has poor attendance / Frequent tardiness
  - Is not enrolled in a State accredited school
  - Has multiple suspensions or is facing expulsion
  - Has little or no academic support in the home
  - Does not have grade appropriate credits (High School students)
  - Changes school and has an IEP-required move in conference

- **If there are:**
  - School transportation concerns
  - Reports of school damage
  - Best Educational Interest determination collaborations as ESSA Point of Contact

- **If the Case Manager requires assistance with:**
  - Obtaining school records
  - Reviewing transcripts, IEP, 504 plan, or education plan
  - Creating an education plan
  - Early Childhood (Preschool) Program enrollment or questions
  - First Steps/Head Start for youth under 5 years old
  - Educational Testing – Identify if a child qualifies for an IEP or other academic resources
  - Home placements changing requiring review of best educational placement options
DCS Education Services Resource Tool

- DCS Education Services team developed resources for specific audiences who work with foster youth.
  - DCS Staff
  - Caregivers
  - Educators
- The Indiana DOE collaborates with DCS and shares our packet for educators on their webpage dedicated to serving the foster youth population.
Education Liaisons Developed
Trainings Offered

• 2018 List of Professional Development Trainings available to DCS, schools, and foster families.
What is Physical Abuse?

Any non-accidental physical injury to a child caused by a parent or caregiver that results in or threatens serious injury.
Recognizing Signs

• Physical Abuse - Potential Signs
  – Unexplained marks on the body
    • Possible examples: Cuts, bruises, welts, burns, lumps, bumps, black eyes, fractures, or dislocations
  – Bruises or welts in various stages of healing, or in clusters or patterns in the shape of an object
    • Possible examples: Patterns that look like a belt or an electrical cord
  – Pattern burns, burns in the shape of a specific object, or scald burns.
    • Possible examples: Cigarette or iron burns
Recognizing Signs

- Emotional Abuse – Potential Signs
  - Considers or attempts suicide
  - Demonstrates self-harming behaviors
  - Gets pleasure from hurting others, pets, or other animals
  - Exhibits difficulty in forming positive relationships
  - Demonstrates defiant behavior
  - Is unable to trust others
  - Is unable to identify with others
  - Experiences speech and eating disorders
What is Neglect?

Parent, guardian or custodian does not supply child with:

- Shelter
- Food
- Education

- Clothing
- Medical Care
- Supervision
Recognizing Signs

• **Neglect – Potential Physical Signs**
  – Dirty, smelly, torn, or inappropriate clothing for the circumstances
  – Developmental lags
  – Underweight

• **Neglect – Potential Behavioral Signs**
  – Inactive
  – Begging for or stealing food
  – Reports being left alone
  – Alcohol or drug use
  – Always tired
What is Sexual Abuse?

Usually is unwanted sexual behavior by a person upon another or when consent for such behavior cannot be given. Indiana has several statutes that define sexual abuse.
Recognizing Signs

• Sexual Abuse – Potential Signs
  – Sexual knowledge beyond what is age-appropriate
  – Recurring pain or itching in genital or anal areas
  – Sexually transmitted disease
  – Frequent bladder or urinary tract infections
  – Genital injury
  – Unexplained fear
  – Sexual acting-out behavior
  – Drawing sexually graphic pictures
Recognizing Signs

- **Age Appropriate Sexual Behaviors**
  - 0-5 years of age
    - Will have questions and express knowledge relating to:
      - Differences in gender, private body parts
      - Hygiene and toileting
      - Pregnancy and birth
    - Will explore genitals and can experience pleasure
    - Showing and looking at private body parts
Recognizing Signs

• **Age Appropriate Sexual Behaviors**
  – 6-8 years of age
    • Will need knowledge and have questions about:
      – Physical development, relationships, sexual behavior
      – Menstruation and pregnancy
      – Personal values
    • Experiment with same-age and same gender children, often during games or role-playing
    • Self-stimulation in private expected to continue
Recognizing Signs

• Age Appropriate Sexual Behaviors
  – 9-12 years of age
    • Will need knowledge and have questions about:
      – Sexual materials and information
      – Relationships and sexual behavior
      – Using sexual words and discussing sexual acts and personal values, particularly with peers
    • Increased experimentation with sexual behaviors and romantic relationships
    • Self-stimulation in private expected to continue
Recognizing Signs

• Age Appropriate Sexual Behaviors
  – 13-16 years of age
  • Will need knowledge and have questions about:
    – Decision-making
    – Social relationships and sexual customs
    – Personal values and consequences of sexual behavior
  • Self-stimulation in private expected to continue
  • Girls will begin menstruation; boys will produce sperm
  • Sexual experimentation with children of similar age and development
Indiana children will live in safe, healthy, and supportive families and communities.

How do you report suspected child abuse or neglect?

Call the Indiana Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline, 24/7.

800.800.5556
Child Abuse & Neglect

Who should report?

• Indiana is a mandatory reporting state. Any person who has reason to believe a child is being abused or neglected shall make a report.

• Medical professionals, school personnel & law enforcement officials have a higher duty to report abuse or neglect.
• If an individual is required to make a report in the individual's capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility, or agency, the individual shall “immediately” make a report to DCS or LEA. After making the report they will notify the individual in charge of the institution, school, facility, or agency or designated agent that the report was made.

• Prohibits schools/corporations, facilities, and agencies from establishing policies that restrict any employee’s duty to report.

• Allows professional reporters to make either an oral or written report to DCS or law enforcement.

• Requires child abuse/neglect training for school employees every two years.
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**Indiana Code § 31-33-5-1 et. seq.**

- An individual is not relieved of the obligation to report on the individual's own behalf, unless a report has already been made to the best of the individual's belief. IC 31-33-5-3.

- A person who has a duty under this chapter to report that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect shall “immediately” make an oral report to the department and/or the local law enforcement agency. IC 31-33-5-4.
“Immediately” Defined

• “immediately” means “in an immediate manner; specifically,
  • a) without intervening agency or cause; directly;
  • b) without delay; at once; instantly.”

Failing to report immediately is a crime.

- A person who knowingly fails to make a report required by IC 31-33-5-1 [any individual] commits a Class B misdemeanor. IC 31-33-22-1 (a)

- A person who knowingly fails to make a report required by IC 31-33-5-2 [individual in an institutional setting.] commits a Class B misdemeanor. This penalty is in addition to the penalty imposed by subsection (a). IC 31-33-22-1 (b)
Muncie Central High School
November 9, 2010

• A sixteen-year-old girl is raped by a fellow student in the bathroom at lunch.

• **Around 12:20**, the girl is brought to the office and speaks to an assistant principal, who immediately notifies the principal.

• **Around 12:40** the principal calls the school nurse, sends the assistant principal to review the security footage, and forces the victim to write a hand written statement of her rape.

• **Between 12:45 and 1:00**, the principal calls the director of secondary education, the assistant superintendent, and HR director
• Around 1:25, the principal has the perpetrator brought to the office and the victim is sent to the emergency room.

• Around 1:40, the assistant principal reports back the principal after reviewing the tape.

• Around 1:45, the perpetrator is sent back to class after being questioned by the principal and athletic director.

• Around 2:00, the principal and athletic director search the student lockers.

• Between 2:30 and 4:30, principal, HR Director, and others attend interviews for an open position.
• Around 4:30, the HR Director calls the DCS Hotline.

• Principal was charged and convicted of failing to immediately report.
Call 800.800.5556

An intake specialist:

• Directs caller immediately to 911 or law enforcement if child is in imminent danger.
• Listens/asks questions using intake guidance tool.
• Captures report information.
• Sends report to local county office to determine next steps
Reporting

Intake specialists will ask questions about the child’s current circumstances, safety, and identifying information:

- Names of children involved
- Parent, guardian or custodian’s name
- Substance abuse issues
- Mental health concerns
- Other household members
- Ages of children
- Addresses & phone numbers
- Current Location
- Domestic violence
- Weapons in the home

Always report suspected abuse even if you don’t know the answers to all the questions.
Per Indiana law, certain criteria must be met before a family case manager can be dispatched to a home. If criteria is met, a thorough assessment may be called for:

- Immediately/1 hour (imminent danger)
- Within 24 hours
- Up to 5 days

Reports related to an open involvement will be forwarded to staff working with the family.
IC 31-33-8-7
The local child protection service's investigation, to the extent that is reasonably possible, must include the following:

- The nature, extent, and cause of the known or suspected child A & N.
- The identity of the person allegedly responsible for the child A & N.
- The names and conditions of other children in the home.
- An evaluation the parent, guardian, custodian of or person responsible for the care of the child.
- The home environment home and the relationship of the child to the parent, guardian, or custodian or other persons responsible for the child's care.
- All other data considered pertinent.

The investigation may include the following:

- A visit to the child's home.
- An interview with the subject child.
- A physical, psychological, or psychiatric examination of any child in the home.
Parental Consent

IC 31-33-8-7 (cont.)

- If admission to the home, school, or any other place that child may be; or permission of the parent, guardian, custodian, or other persons responsible for the child for the physical, psychological, or psychiatric examination cannot be obtained, the juvenile court, upon good cause, shall follow the procedures identified in IC 31-21-12.

- DCS must request consent of custodial parent or guardian to interview the child if exigent circumstances do not exist.

- DCS must request permission to enter the home from an adult (18 years of age or older) unless accompanied by law enforcement.

- DCS defines exigent circumstances as situations that would cause a reasonable person to believe that a timely interview with the child is necessary due to concerns for the child’s well-being and safety, and that seeking parental, guardian, or custodian consent first may cause harm to the child or place the child at greater risk.
Outcomes of Assessment

**Substantiate**
DCS finds enough facts to prove that child abuse or neglect has occurred.

**Unsubstantiate**
DCS finds no credible evidence that child abuse or neglect has occurred.
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How You Can Help

• Offer to help your relatives, friends and neighbors who are under stress and may need some assistance.
• Perhaps you can babysit, cook, provide transportation, mentor.
• Become a foster parent: 888.631.9510.
• Become an adoptive parent: 888.25ADOPT.
• Purchase a ‘Kids First’ license plate to help fund prevention services.
Online Training on Reporting

Don’t Wait! Make the Call.
Report Child Abuse and Neglect in Indiana
Public Online Training and Information Course

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Educating Others

Public Online Training and Information Course

- Learn the meaning of child abuse and neglect in Indiana.
- Recognize and report child abuse and neglect in Indiana.
- Learn who is required to report child abuse and neglect in Indiana.
- Learn what happens once DCS receives a report of child abuse or neglect.
- [https://reportchildabuse.dcs.in.gov/](https://reportchildabuse.dcs.in.gov/)

Children are never protected by adult silence!
Some resources to learn more about recognizing signs of abuse and neglect are:

- National Child Traumatic Stress Network - https://www.nctsn.org/resources/all-nctsn-resources?search=child+abuse&=Submit&resource_type=All&trauma_type=All&language=All&audience=All
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Any Questions?