



Child Abuse and Neglect

Dynamics,
Definitions,
Prevention
And
Reporting,



DIARY OF A METIS CHILD

- In what ways did Richard ask for help?
- In what ways did the foster families try to help Richard?
- How would you have helped Richard?
- Other observations or personal reactions you wish to discuss.

NEVADA STATUTE, NRS 432

B

- This is the broad statute that defines child abuse and neglect and authorizes child protection and law enforcement agencies to investigate reports of alleged child abuse and neglect.

CHILD MALTREATMENT

- Broad definition that encompasses a wide range of parental acts or behaviors that place children at risk of serious or physical or emotional harm
- It is defined by law in each state
- Labels used in state statutes vary

TYPES OF MALTREATMENT

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
 - Physical
 - Educational
 - Medical
 - Lack of supervision

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Bruising especially on the face throat upper arms buttocks thighs or lower back
- Unusual shapes
- On an infant
- Bite or pinch marks
- In clusters
- In various stages of healing

BURNS

- Cigarette burns , feet, abdomen
- Immersion burns
- Rope burns
- Burns in shapes of common household utensils such as irons

UNEXPLAINED INJURIES

- Skeletal injuries
- Twisting fractures or dislocations
- Any skeletal injury in an infant
- Lacerations welts
- Missing chipped or loosened teeth
tearing of gums tongue
- Loss of Hair
- Broken eardrum
- Retinal hemorrhages
- Abdominal injuries

Behavioral Indicators

- Behavioral extremes
- Inappropriate fear of parent or caretaker
- Unusual shyness
wariness of physical contact
- Antisocial behavior
- Reluctance to return home
- Disclosure of abuse
- Depression
- Attempt to Hide injuries
- Unbelievable or inconsistent explanation of injuries
- Belief that punishment is deserved

SEXUAL ABUSE

- Somatic complaints including pain and irritation of genitals
- Pregnancy
- Bruising of bleeding from genital or anal region
- Genital discharge
- Frequent unexplained sore throats, yeast or urinary infections.
- Torn stained or bloody underclothes

BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- Victims disclosure
- Poor relationships
- Regressive behaviors such as bedwetting, thumb sucking, fear of dark
- Sudden behavior changes
- Promiscuity
- Prostitution
- Substance abuse
- Difficulty walking or sitting
- In young children preoccupation with his, his parents, or other children's sexual organs.
- Unusual and age inappropriate interest in sexual matters.

NEGLECT

Things to consider

- Cultural Norms
- Financial Ability To Provide
- Personal Values

Indicators of Neglect

- Abandonment
- Chronic unseemliness or poor hygiene including untreated scabies diaper rash bedsores
- Unsuitable clothing for the weather
- Untreated illness or injury
- Excessive sunburn or other factors that would indicate extreme exposure
- Lack of immunizations
- Child is repeatedly left in an unsupervised or a potentially dangerous environment

Behavioral Indicators of Neglect

- Problematic school attendance
- Chronic hunger or tiredness
- Begging
- Substance abuse
- Assuming adult responsibilities beyond the child's capabilities
- Reporting no caretaker at home
- Child appears to have no limits

EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT

- Emotional maltreatment causes emotional or mental injury
- The effects of emotional maltreatment is a handicap to the child
- It is lasting rather than temporary.
- It is observed in a child's behavior.

CLUES TO RECOGNIZING EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT

- Eating disorders
- Speech disorders
- Developmental delays in speech or motor skills
- Height and weight below norm
- Flat or bald spots on an infants head
- Nervous disorders
- Head banging
- Regressive behaviors
- Poor peer relations
- Fire setting
- Cruel behavior
- Behavioral extremes
- Age inappropriate behavior
- Withdrawal

Contributing Factors to Child Maltreatment

- It's complicated and it is usually the result of an interaction of personal, interpersonal and environmental stressors.
- Factors are different in each family
- Each family has inherent strengths and capabilities that can be developed to prevent future maltreatment.

In general, the contributing factors to child maltreatment can be divided into four categories.

1. Personal characteristics of the parent or primary caregiver,
2. The lack of resources and support systems,
3. Special or unusual needs or characteristics of the child
4. Excessive stress in the family and surrounding environment

Personal Characteristics

- Limited and ineffective coping skills
- Difficulty in forming interpersonal relationships
- Lacks empathy does not recognize children's needs
- Impulsive unable to take responsibility, or delay gratification
- Personal history of victimization

Lack of Resources/Support Systems

- Poverty
- Chronic unemployment
- Extended family friends
- Does not know how to use community supports
- Parent may not trust others may view the world as a hostile place
- Limited choices to solve problems

Unusual Needs or Characteristics of the Child

- Child is sick, premature, developmentally delayed, medically fragile, requiring a high degree of care
- Child's condition places a high burden of care on family's time and resources
- Parent perceives the child to be "different" and having undesirable qualities"

Excessive Stress in the Family or Surrounding Environment

- Family in frequent crisis
- Illness of family members
- Violent or threatening neighborhood
- Racism and discrimination limits choices, and increases stress
- Recent losses, divorce, death
- Frequent relocation
- Isolated lacks transportation

IMPORTANT POINTS

- There are physical indicators as well as behavioral indicators of child maltreatment.
- Be careful! Sometimes what may seem like abuse isn't always abuse but it certainly could be abuse.

IMPORTANT POINT

- Some of the factors associated with physical abuse and neglect are the same while others are different. In situations of sexual abuse, there are, again, very different contributing factors.

WHO IS A MANDATED REPORTER?

NRS 432 B.240

THIS DEFINES WHAT "MANDATED REPORTING" IS

Mandated reporters are those persons who in their professional capacity know or who have reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected. Mandated reporters are required to make a report to Child Protective Services or law enforcement within 24 hours. There are penalties for mandated reporters when a report is not received within the time limit.

Division of Child and Family Services Phone Numbers

- Elko- 775-753-100
- Battle Mountain- 635 8172
- Winnemucca-623-6555
- Ely- 2891640
- Pahrump-727-8497
- After hours call local law enforcement

NRS 432B. 121

● This defines what
“reasonable cause” is.

“A reasonable cause to believe” that child maltreatment has occurred are facts and or circumstances, events or conditions that would cause a reasonable person to believe that child abuse has occurred or may be occurring.

NRS 432B.220

YOU ARE PROTECTED!

- Immunity from civil or criminal liability extends to every person who in good faith makes a report pursuant to NRS 432B.220

Your identity is protected by law and by social work ethics when you make a report concerning possible child abuse or neglect.

NRS 432B.240

HOWEVER...!

“A person who knowingly and willfully makes or causes another person to make a false report of child abuse or neglect is guilty of a misdemeanor.”

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU MAKE A REPORT?

- Investigation
- Determination
 - unsubstantiated close case,
 - - unsubstantiated,
services, close case
 - substantiated, services, close
case
 - substantiated, services keep
case
open

FOSTER CARE

- Difficult for children
- Dramatic
- Legal Review
 - 72 hour hearing
 - 30 Day hearing
 - 6 month reviews

Community Resources

- Family Resource Center
- DCFS
- WIC
- Nevada Early Intervention Services
- FISH
- Nevada Check Up
- Welfare
- Churches
- Lions Club
- Intensive Family Services
- Mental Health
- Private therapists