

## **What is child neglect?**

Child neglect is the continued failure by a parent or caregiver to provide a child with the basic things needed for his or her proper growth and development, such as food, clothing, shelter, medical and dental care and adequate supervision. It is also defined as a type of maltreatment related to the failure to provide needed, age-appropriate care. Neglect is usually typified by an ongoing pattern of inadequate care and is readily observed by individuals in close contact with the child

## **What is psychological neglect?**

Failure from the part of a parent or carer giver to provide the level of affection, attention, nurturing and age appropriate stimulation for the child's growth and development.

## **Possible signs of neglect**

### **Signs in children or young people**

- low weight for age and/or failure to thrive and develop
- untreated physical problems e.g. sores, serious nappy rash and urine scalds, significant dental decay
- poor standards of hygiene i.e. child or young person consistently unwashed
- poor complexion and hair texture
- child not adequately supervised for their age
- scavenging or stealing food and focus on basic survival
- extended stays at school, public places, other homes
- longs for or indiscriminately seeks adult affection
- rocking, sucking, head-banging
- poor school attendance

### **Signs in parents or caregivers**

- unable or unwilling to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical attention, safe home conditions
- leaving the child without appropriate supervision
- abandons the child or young person
- withholding physical contact or stimulation for prolonged periods
- unable or unwilling to provide psychological nurturing
- has limited understanding of the child or young person's needs

- has unrealistic expectations of the child or young person

Remember, the above are only possible signs of neglect. The presence of these signs does not necessarily mean neglect has been, or is, occurring. (the above information is taken directly from Community Services NSW)

## Your role

- Discuss child abuse concerns with your Parish Safeguarding Officer or National Safeguarding Officer at the Eparchy.
- Report to relevant child protection agencies in your State and Territory on number provided below.

<b>State and Territory</b>	<b>24 hours Reporting Lines</b>	
New South Wales	Child protection Helpline	Ph: 13 21 11 TTY 1800 212 936
	Mandatory reporters	Ph: 13 36 27
Victoria	Child Protection Crisis Line	Ph: 13 12 78
	North Division Intake	Ph: 1300 664 977
	South Division Intake	Ph: 1300 655 795
	East Division Intake	Ph: 1300 360 391
	West Division Intake Rural and regional only	Ph: 1800 075 599
	West Division Intake metropolitan only	Ph: 1300 664 977
South Australia	Child Abuse Report Line	Ph: 13 14 78
	After hours crisis care	Ph: 13 16 11
Northern Territory	Child Protection Hotline	Ph: 1800 700 250
Western Australia	Child Protection Service	Ph: (08) 9222 2555 Country Free Call 1800 622 258
		Country Free call:1800 199 008
	After hours	Ph: (08) 9223 1111
	mandatory reporter line	Ph: 1800 708 704
Tasmania	Child Abuse Contact number	Ph: 1300 737 639

Australian Capital Territory	Mandatory Reporters	Ph: 1300 556 728
	General Public	Ph: 1300 556 729
Queensland local intake locations as below:	Child Safety After Hours Service Centre	Ph: 1800 177 135
Ipswich	Ph: 1800 316 855	
Far North Queensland	Ph: 1300 684 062	Fax: 07 4039 8320
South West	Ph: 1300 683 390	Fax: 07 4616 1796
Brisbane	Ph: 1300 682 254	Fax: 07 3259 8771
South East	Ph: 1300 679 849	Fax: 07 3884 8802
North Coast	Ph: 1300 703 921	Fax: 07 5420 9049
North Queensland	Ph: 1300 706 147	Fax: 07 4799 7273
Central Queensland	Ph: 1300 703 762	Fax: 07 4938 4697

## References

NSW, Community Services. n.d. <http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/preventing-child-abuse-and-neglect/what-is-child-abuse/signs-of-abuse>. NSW: CS.

Ockenden L, Communications and Research Officer with the Child Family Community Australia information exchange at the Australian Institute of Family Studies. April 2016. "State and territory departments responsible for protecting children." *CFCA Resource Sheet*.