

Mandatory Reporter Training



FLORIDA ABUSE HOTLINE

Learning Objectives



- Define the Role of the Florida Abuse Hotline



- Identify the Role of the Reporter



- Identify Possible Maltreatment Indicators



- The Exploring the Reporting Process



The Role of the Hotline

- The Florida Abuse Hotline serves as the Central Reporting Center for allegations of Abuse, Neglect, Abandonment, and/or Exploitation for all children and vulnerable adults in Florida.
- The Hotline is Located at:
2415 North Monroe Street, Suite 1176
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Administration: (850) 487-6100



What is the Function of the Hotline?

- **Assess calls for Child Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment**
- **Assess calls for Adult Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation**
- **Provide Information and Community Referrals**
- **Partner with DCF Investigative Staff, Law Enforcement, and others by providing accurate, timely, and comprehensive documentation.**



The Role of the Counselor



- Know and understand Florida Statutes, Administrative Code, Children and Families Operating Procedure (CFOP)
- Assess Abuse, Neglect, Abandonment and/or Exploitation
- Provide Referrals
- Assist Out of State Inquiries
- Background Checks

The Role of the Reporter



- Any Person who has knowledge of or suspects Abuse, Neglect, Abandonment or Exploitation of a Child or Vulnerable Adult is required to report.
- Regardless of the Abuse being Perpetrated by a Caregiver or Non-Caregiver, HB 1355 made revisions to Florida Statutes Chapter 39 stating:
- Any person who knows, or who had reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused by an adult, other than a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, other person responsible for the child's welfare, shall report such knowledge to the department.
- Professionally Mandated Reporters include, but are not limited to:

Medical Staff

Law Enforcement

Mental Health Staff

School Personnel

Facility Staff

Judges/Court Personnel

What do I Need as a Reporter?

- Names of Participants, Demographics
- Allegation
- Means To Locate
- Sources





Non-Reports of Child Abuse

- A professional who is hired by, or enters into, a contract with the Department for the purpose of treating or counseling any person, as a result of a report of child abuse is not required to again report to the Hotline; however, new allegations must still be reported.
- An officer or employee of the Judicial Branch is not required to again provide notice of child abuse when the child is currently being investigated by the department, there is an existing dependency case or the matter was previously reported to the department; again, new allegations must be reported.

What Happens if I Don't Report Abuse?



- A person who is required to report and knowingly and willfully fails to do so or prevents another person from doing so, is guilty of a felony of the third degree.
- A person who knowingly and willfully makes a false report of child abuse or advises another to make a false report, is guilty of a felony of the third degree.

Confidentiality

- All reports are confidential. Access to these reports are limited by specific criteria in Chapters 39 and 415 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.).
- Hotline Counselors will not acknowledge the existence of any report, will not acknowledge that they have previously spoken to a particular caller, nor will they release any information provided by a caller or any information contained in a report.
- Any person with a statutory right to a report copy may contact their Local Investigative Office.



Guidelines for Reporting Child Abuse



Can the
Hotline
accept a
Report?

**Jurisdiction is defined in Chapter 39
of the Florida Statutes.**

-Child Victim

-Alleged Perpetrator
(Caregiver- Non- Caregiver)

-Resident of Florida or a
Means to Locate in Florida

**Reasonable Cause to Suspect
Harm**

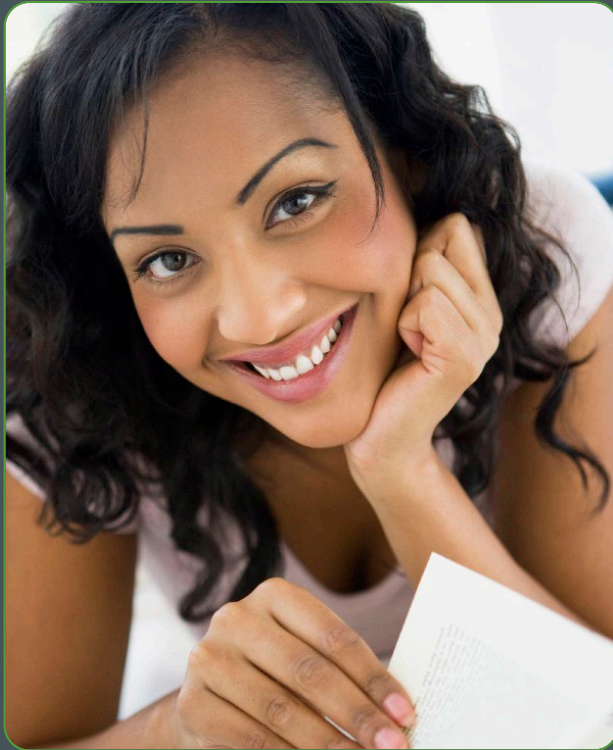
Is the Victim a Child?

The child must be:

- **Born (not stillborn)**
- **Under the age of 18**
- **Not emancipated by order of the court**
- **Not married**



Is the Perpetrator a Caregiver?



The Alleged Perpetrator of Child Abuse, Neglect, or Abandonment must be:

- **Parent**
- **Legal Custodian**
- **Permanent Guardian**
- **Adult Household Member**
- **Other Person Responsible for the Child's Welfare**



Is the Child a Resident of Florida?

The Victim Child must be:

- **A Resident of Florida with a valid Means to Locate in Florida at the time of the call.**
- **Not a Resident of Florida, however, the incident of harm occurred in Florida and the victim and alleged perpetrator are currently in Florida.**
- **Not a Resident of Florida and the incident of harm occurred outside of Florida, however, there is cause to believe harm will reoccur or continue while the victim and alleged perpetrator are currently in Florida.**

What is Abuse?



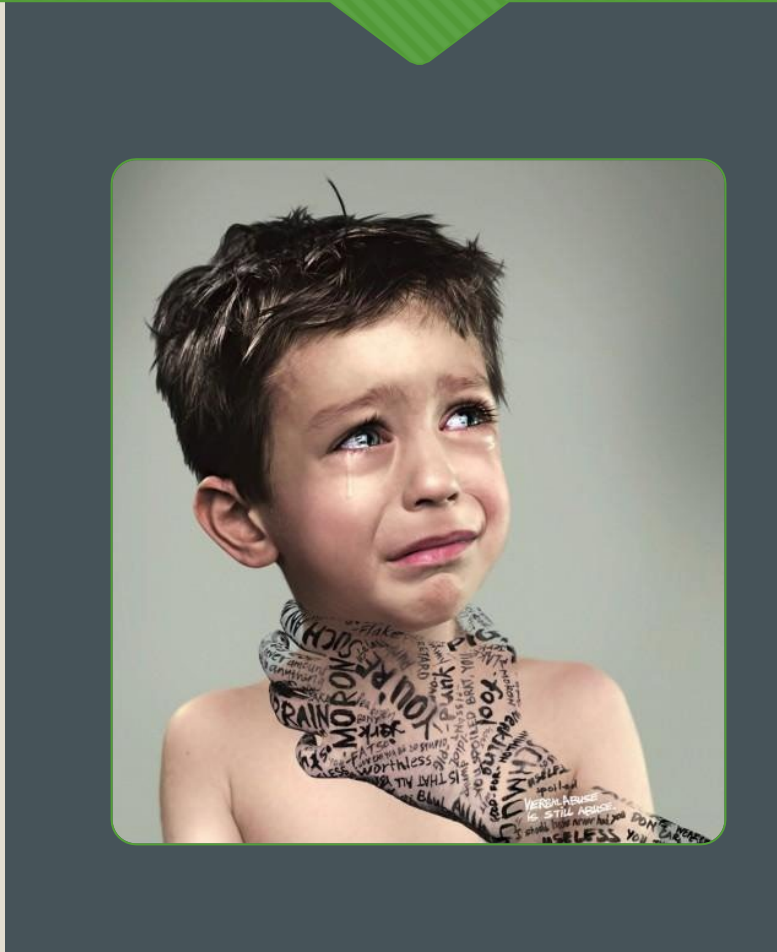
○ Means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual injury or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired.

39.01(2), F.S.

Maltreatment Codes of Abuse for Children

- Burns
- Bone Fractures
- Asphyxiation
- Physical Injuries
- Internal Injuries
- Bizarre Punishment
- Mental Injuries
- Sexual Abuse
- Human Trafficking
- Death





- **Unexplained Marks and Bruises**
- **Immersion Burns**
- **Acting Out Sexually Developmental Norms**
- **Withdrawn and Overly Emotional**
- **Changes in School Performance or Attendance**
- **Changes in Behavior**

Common Injuries To Look For

Bite: A wound, bruise, cut or indentation in the skin caused by seizing, piercing or cutting skin with teeth.

Bruise: An injury resulting from bleeding within the skin where the skin is discolored but not broken.

Cut: An opening, incision or break in the skin made by some external agent.

Dislocation: Displacement of any body part, especially the temporary displacement of a bone from its normal position in a joint.

Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy or Factitious Disorder: A form of child abuse in which a parent induces real or apparent symptoms of a disease in a child.

Oral Injury: Injuries to the mouth, including broken teeth from a willful act.

Puncture: An opening in the skin which is relatively small as compared to the depth, as produced by a narrow, pointed object.

Welt: An elevation on the skin that can be produced by a lash or blow. The skin is not broken, and the mark is reversible.

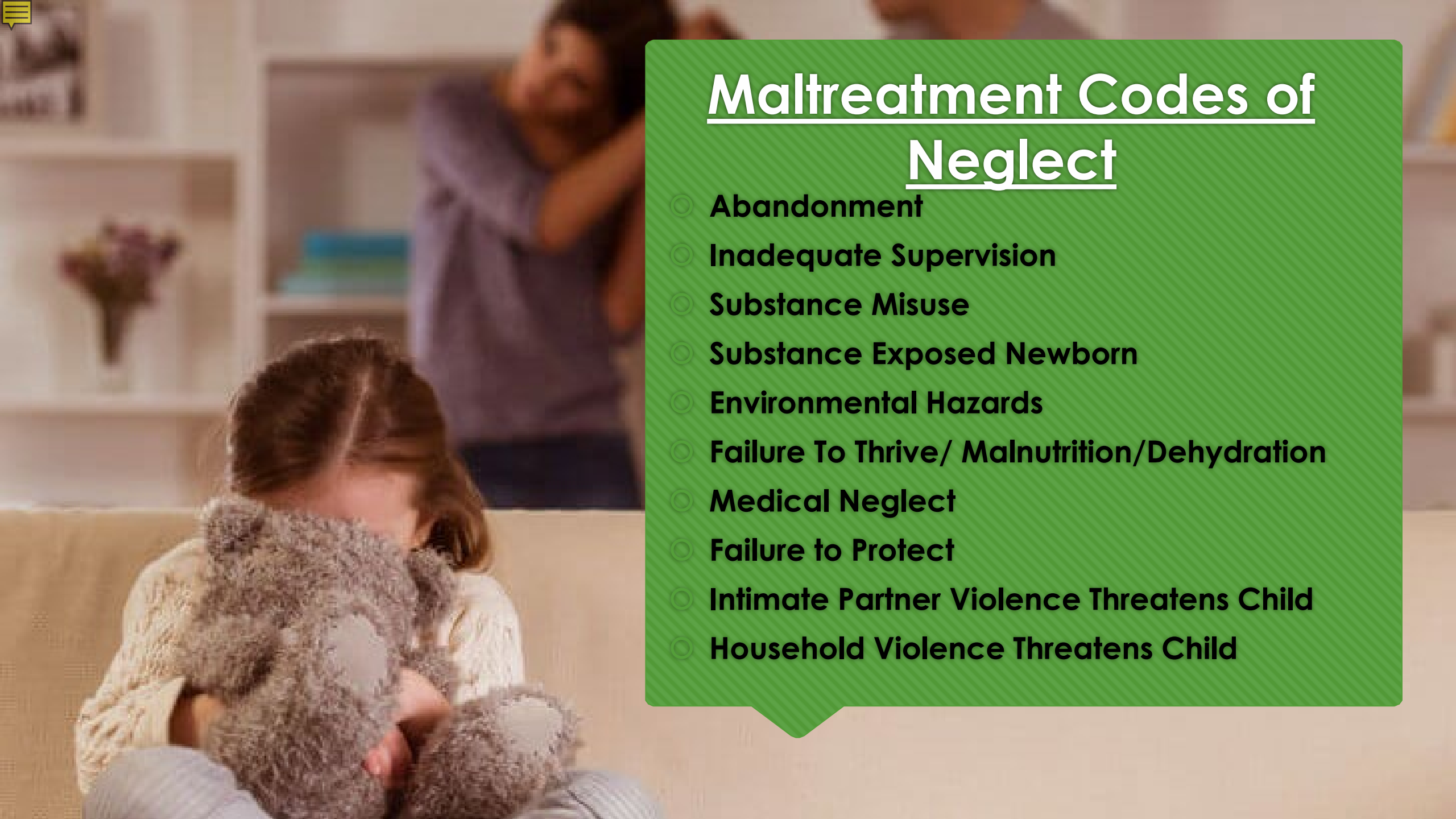


What is Neglect?



- Occurs when a child is deprived of, or is allowed to be deprived of, necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment or a child is permitted to live in an environment when such deprivation or environment causes the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired or to be in danger of being significantly impaired.

39.01(44), F.S.

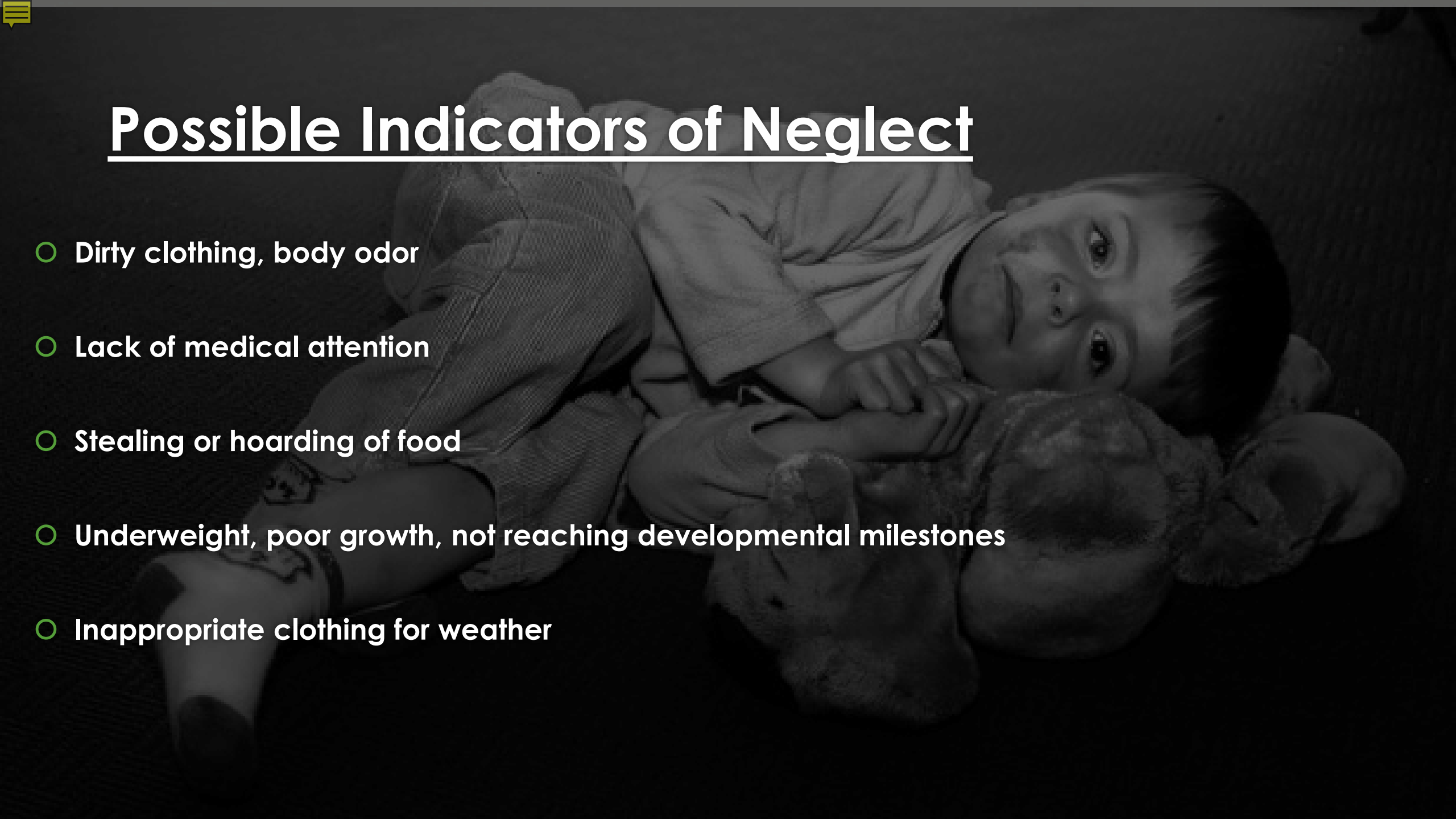


Maltreatment Codes of Neglect

- Abandonment
- Inadequate Supervision
- Substance Misuse
- Substance Exposed Newborn
- Environmental Hazards
- Failure To Thrive/ Malnutrition/Dehydration
- Medical Neglect
- Failure to Protect
- Intimate Partner Violence Threatens Child
- Household Violence Threatens Child



Possible Indicators of Neglect

- Dirty clothing, body odor
 - Lack of medical attention
 - Stealing or hoarding of food
 - Underweight, poor growth, not reaching developmental milestones
 - Inappropriate clothing for weather
- 



Reasonable Cause Indicators

If reasonable cause to suspect cannot be clearly established because the Reporter's information is limited, the Hotline Counselor should consider:

- Physical Indicators**
- Behavioral Indicators**
- Environmental Indicators**
- Historical Indicators**

Other Types of Reports

- Foster Care Referral
- Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse
- Caregiver Unavailable
- Parent Needs Assistance



How to Make a Report

Telephone

- 1-800-962-2873
- 1-800-96-ABUSE

Web

○ <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline/report-online>

TDD

- 711
- 1-800-453-5145

Fax

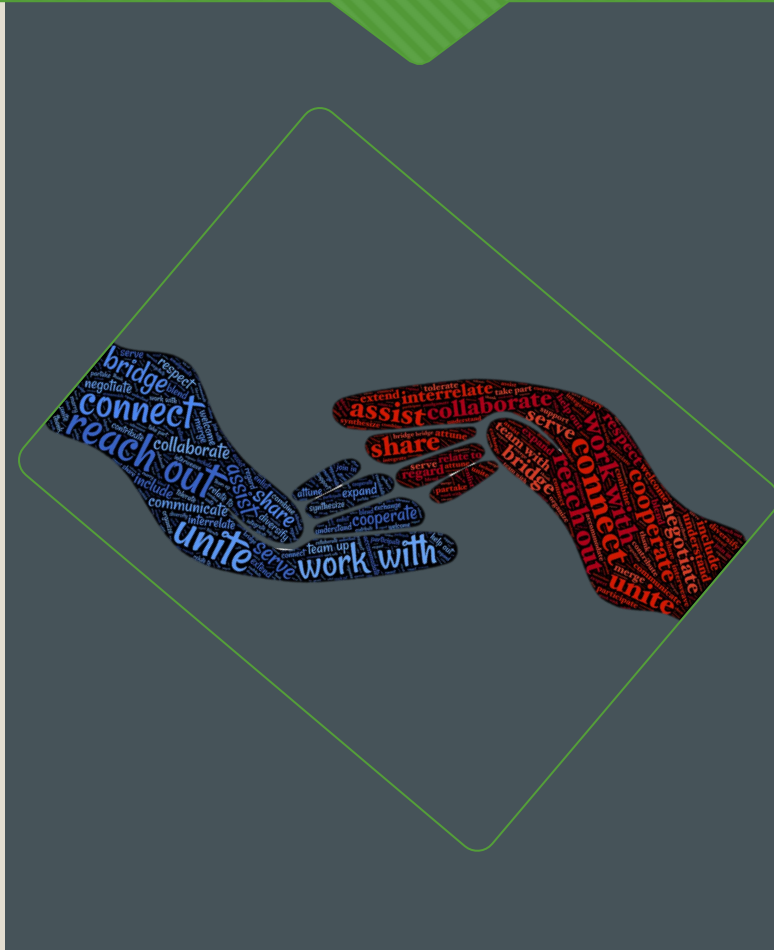
- 1-800-914-0004





Do You Know How To Make A Report?

Send A Letter To DCF	✗
Call In A Report To The Florida Abuse Hotline	✓
Contact The Local Child Protective Office	✗
Complete A Web Report	✓
Complete A Fax Document And Submit Legibly	✓
Via TDD	✓
Call 911 and Report To Law Enforcement	✗



- In cases where Reasonable Cause to Suspect cannot be established, the counselor will attempt to see if a Special Conditions Referral would apply.
- If the report still cannot be accepted, the Hotline will attempt to provide the reporter with a community contact to an agency that would be able to get involved in the situation.

These may include:

- Other state reporting Hotlines
- Local Office Referrals
- Legal Aide numbers
- Local School Boards
- Law Enforcement Non-Emergency numbers
- Elder Helpline
- 211

What Happens Next

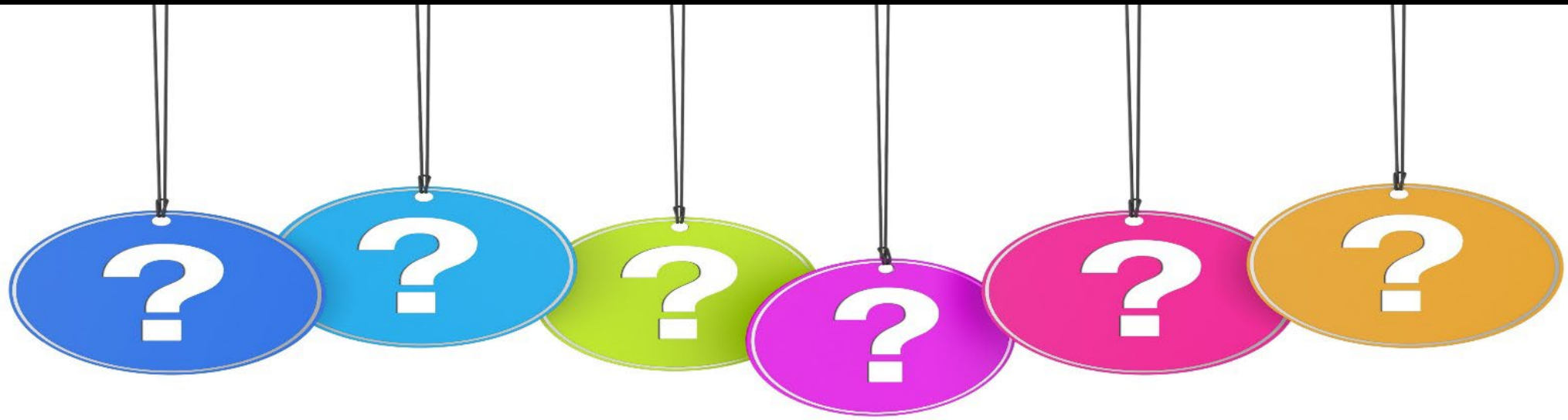


The Investigator has 24 hours to make face to face contact with the victim.

In serious situations involving present danger to the victim, the Investigator will respond as soon as possible.

The Investigator will also contact the reporter if they leave their name.

The Investigator will also contact the family and other individuals who know the victim and family.



Closing Questions???

Circuit 7 Contact Information

- **Lainie Camen**, Family Safety Specialist (East Volusia)
 - 386-983-6537
- **Vickie Williams**, Family Safety Specialist (Putnam and West Volusia)
 - 386-316-2035
- **Monique Anderson**, Family Safety Specialist (St. Johns and Flagler)
 - 386-316-2061
- **Charles Johnson Jr.**, Program Administrator, (East Volusia)
 - 386-546-4131
- **Lindsey McCrudden** , Program Administrator, (Flagler and St. Johns)
 - 904-524-4101
- **Crystal Grant**, Program Administrator, (West Volusia and Putnam)
 - 352-284-6942