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Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Your responsibilities under the Child and Family Services Act

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This presentation is for informational purposes only and does not constitute clinical or legal advice. Follow up with a BCaBA/BCBA/BCBA-D is recommended to develop a specific plan for your child or student.

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Objectives

Main Objectives
 Legislation
 Steps and Timelines
 Discuss Potential Situations

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Confidentiality Agreement

By continuing to participate in the presentation you are entering a formal agreement not to:

- Record any part of this presentation for personal or professional use
- Disseminate any content on social media
- Reproduce and use the slides for professional use without author consent

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*** Please maintain confidentiality of clients during this presentation**

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“The Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) recognizes that each of us has a responsibility for the welfare of children.”

(Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: It's Your Duty 2021)

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Why Is This Important For You?



Prevalence

Children with Autism and/or ID at significantly higher risk of experiencing abuse

Duty to Report

Any professional who works with children has a legal obligation to report any suspected abuse

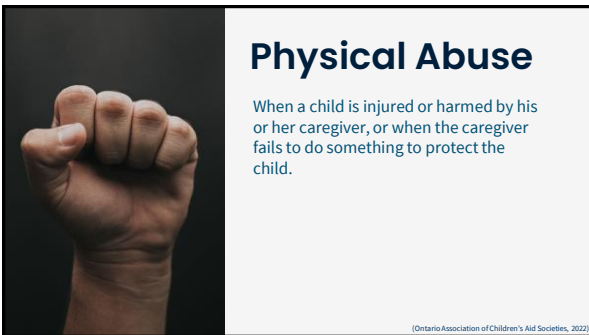
(McDonnell, et al. 2019)

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Types of Abuse

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Physical Abuse

When a child is injured or harmed by his or her caregiver, or when the caregiver fails to do something to protect the child.

(Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, 2022)

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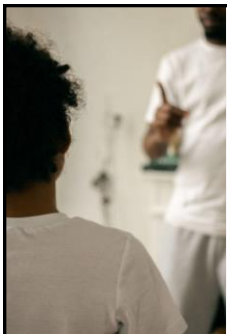
Neglect

A pattern where a child's caregiver fails to provide basic needs such as food, sleep, safety, supervision, appropriate clothing or medical treatment.



(Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, 2022)

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Emotional Abuse

When a caregiver treats a child in an extremely negative way that damages self-esteem and the concept of self.

(Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, 2022)

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Sexual Abuse

Any sexual exploitation of a child by a caregiver or someone else.



(Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, 2022)

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Who has a duty to report?

Anyone with reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is, or may be, in need of protection



(Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: It's Your Duty 2021)

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What are "reasonable grounds" to suspect child abuse or neglect?

(Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: It's Your Duty 2021)

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Common Questions

Confidentiality
You must report, even when the information is otherwise confidential or privileged.

Liability
No action for making the report will occur unless the person acts maliciously or without reasonable grounds for the suspicion.

Unsure if Reportable
You can always call CAS anonymously and describe the situation and they will advise on what to do.

(Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: It's Your Duty 2021)

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What Happens After a Report?

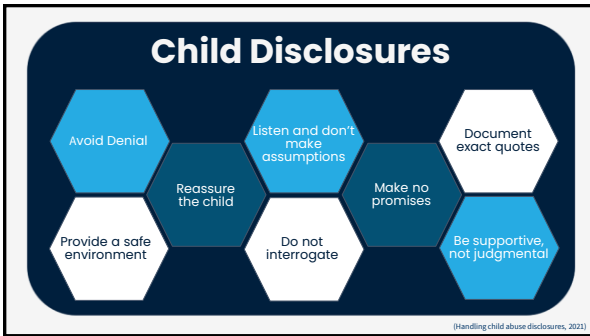
CAS Investigation

The response will be based on the potential risk for the child. It will take into account the child's best interests




(Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: It's Your Duty 2021)

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Steps to Follow

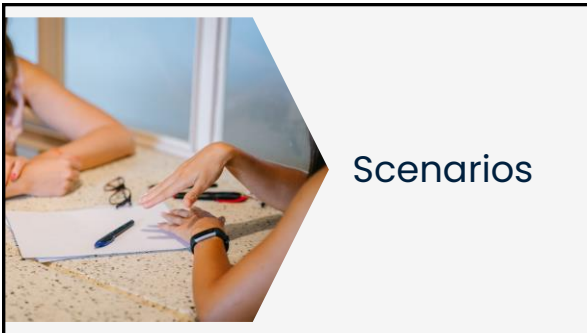


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Step-By-Step Process

- 1 Inform Family (if comfortable)
- 2 Inform ST immediately after shift
- 3 Complete an IR
- 4 Determine if Reportable
- 5 Make Report (if applicable)
- 6 Inform ST if you Reported

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Scenarios

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You are working with a client in a daycare and you observe the pre-toddler classroom transitioning to go outside. Alanna, an 18-month-old is crying and throwing herself on the floor. In frustration, the staff member grabs Alanna by the top of the arm and yanks her up to walk. She squeezes so hard that Alanna has bruises around her upper arm in the shape of a hand.

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Violet, age 11, is having a hard time walking. When she sits down, she acts like it hurts. You ask her what is wrong. She just looks down and says, "Nothing." A few days later, she is playing soccer with the other children. She rolls up her pant legs and stretches on the ground when she gets warm. You notice dark purple bruises on her inner thighs. She seems to remember the bruises are there and rolls the pant legs back down below her knees.

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Alecia, age 6, has had a severe cough for at least two weeks. It has gotten so bad that her whole body seems to seize up when she coughs. She wheezes and seems exhausted. You are very concerned about her health and have expressed your concerns to her mom. Mom just keeps saying, "It's getting better. The doctor will just tell me it's a cold and there's nothing they can do. It's a waste of time."

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On you way out of a session, you see Dora and her grandmother getting ready to go out. Dora is resisting putting her shoes on and her grandmother seems frustrated. You overhear Dora's grandmother say "Stop fighting me! Just put the shoes on!" She takes the shoe and hits Dora over the head with it. Dora grabs her head and ducks away from her grandmother.

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Regional CAS Contact Info

Peel Region
<https://www.peelcas.org/>
 905-363-6131

Halton
<http://haltoncas.ca/>
 905.333.4441

Toronto
<http://torontocas.ca/>
 416-924-4646

York
<https://www.yorkcas.org/contact.asp>
 905.895.2318

Hamilton
<https://www.hamiltoncas.com/contact/>
 905-522-1121

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