

A photograph of two children walking on a sandy beach. The child on the left is wearing a white, short-sleeved dress with a ruffled hem. The child on the right is wearing a white, short-sleeved shirt and white shorts. They are both barefoot and holding hands. The background shows the ocean waves and a bright, sunny sky.

# Child Abuse

*“Child Abuse casts a shadow the length of a lifetime.”*

- Herbert Ward



# What is it?

- Child abuse is any act that endangers a child's physical or emotional health and development.
- A child is anyone under the age of 18



# Facts

- A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds in the US.
- 718 reports per day or **30 per hour in Texas** alone.
- 3.3 million reports of child abuse are made each year
- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are abused.

\* [childhelp.org](http://childhelp.org)



# Who Abuses?

- Parents, caregivers, guardians
- Family members (siblings, cousins)
- Friends
- Boyfriends/Girlfriends
- Spouses (husbands & wives)
- Adults in the community
- Strangers



# 4 Types of Abuse



# Physical

- Slapping
- Shoving
- Squeezing/Grabbing (typically arms, chin)
- Hair-pulling
- Kicking
- Shaking
- Choking
- Detaining
- Hitting
- Pinching
- Hitting with objects
- Punching



# Emotional

- Name calling, threats, screaming, yelling, ridiculing, emotional blackmailing, stalking, cyber bullying (ridicule, photographs, etc.) and insults/putdowns.
  - Constant belittling, shaming, and humiliating a child.
  - Calling names and making negative comparisons to others.
  - Telling a child he or she is "no good," "worthless," "bad," or "a mistake."
  - Frequent yelling, threatening, or bullying.
  - Ignoring or rejecting a child as punishment, giving him or her the silent treatment.
  - Limited physical contact with the child—no hugs, kisses, or other signs of affection.
  - Exposing the child to violence or the abuse of others, whether it be the abuse of a parent, a sibling, or even a pet.
- In relationships - can include: jealousy, possessiveness, controlling behaviors, isolation from friends and family, humiliation, and monitoring of other's communications



# Sexual

- Unwanted contact (kissing or touching).
- Romantic relationship with someone who is not age appropriate (more than 3 years difference).
- Contact between an adult and a child involving private parts.
- Verbal abuse: sexual slurs or attacks on a person's gender or sexual orientation.
- Use of threats, force or coercion
- Asleep, under the influence



\*only 10% by stranger



# Neglect

- Neglect –

medical care

dental care

clothing

shelter

food

abandonment

instability

education

emotional wellbeing



# Warning Signs

| Type      | Symptoms   |
|-----------|--|
| Neglect   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Signs of malnutrition</li><li>•Poor hygiene</li><li>•Unattended physical or medical problems</li><li>•Chronic school truancy</li></ul>  |
| Physical  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Unexplained bruises, burns, welts</li><li>•Child appears frightened of a parent or caregiver</li><li>•Extreme aggressive or withdrawn behavior</li></ul>  |
| Sexual    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Pain, bleeding, redness, or swelling in private parts</li><li>•Age-inappropriate play</li><li>•Age-inappropriate knowledge</li></ul>  |
| Emotional | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Extremes in behavior, ranging from overly aggressive or passive</li><li>•Delayed physical, emotional, or intellectual development</li><li>•Withdrawn, isolated, socially disconnected</li></ul> |



# What to do...

If you are being abused, are in an abusive relationship or you suspect someone else is being abused – tell an adult.

All teachers are mandated reporters

48 hour time limit

Telephone report

Online report



# Child Protective Services (CPS)

- State agency responsible for investigating all claims of child, elderly or disabled abuse.
- Process:
  - prioritize
  - assign investigator
  - interview all parties involved
  - determination
  - service plan



# Relationship Violence

The intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in a dating relationship.



# Did you know?

- Current statistics indicate that 1 in 3 teenagers will experience physical violence in a dating relationship.
- 40% of teenage girls between the ages of 14 and 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by their boyfriend.
- Violent relationships begin at an average age of 15.

\* Genesis Women's Shelter



# School Response to Relationship Violence

- If you are in an abusive relationship with a peer, please notify an adult on campus.
- Schools are required to take action to protect students.
- Parents of both parties will be notified and an investigation will be initiated by an AP.
- A Safety plan may be created and signed by both students and their parents.
- If substantiated, the perpetrator may be removed from campus & possible criminal charges may be filed.



# Stop the Abuse

- You have the right to be safe.
- Love shouldn't hurt.
- Don't keep secrets.

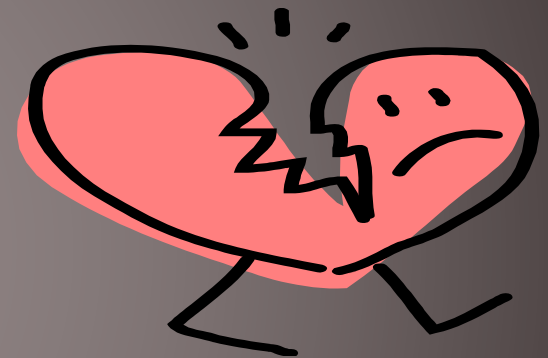
CPS: 1-800-252-5400

Denton County Friends of the Family

(940) 382-7273

Children's Advocacy Center of Denton

(972) 317-2818





# National Resources

- [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org)
- [www.kempe.org](http://www.kempe.org)
- [www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)
- [www.nationalchildrensalliance.org](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org)
- [www.childhood-usa.org](http://www.childhood-usa.org)
- [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)
- [www.ndacan.cornell.edu](http://www.ndacan.cornell.edu)

