

Types of Child Abuse

Physical

Physical abuse occurs when physical force is used against a child beyond reasonable discipline. A threat of force against a child may also constitute a crime. Signs of physical abuse may include bruising, unexplained or inadequately explained injuries, "clinginess," nightmares, aggressiveness and fear of a particular person or place. The physical abuser is often someone to whom the child has routine exposure, such as a parent or caregiver. Almost 80% of these cases involve a parent.

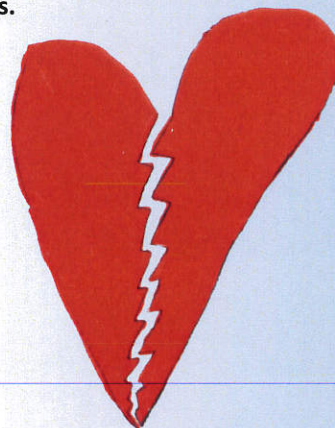
Sexual

Any type of sexual behavior or contact occurring between an adult and a child under 17 years of age is a crime. These types of crimes may include non-physical contact with a child such as indecent exposure. Exploitation of children, such as the production, distribution or possession of pornographic images of children is also sexual abuse.



Obvious physical signs of sexual abuse may include injuries to the genital area that require medical attention. Less apparent physical signs may include difficulty with bowel movements or with urinating, recurring complaints of stomach aches or headaches. Behavioral signs may include loss of appetite, emotional withdrawal, disturbed sleep patterns, sudden fear of the dark, "acting out" sexually. The child may have difficulty maintaining relationships with other children, lack self confidence or engage in self-destructive behavior, such as self mutilation.

These crimes are generally committed by a family member or someone close to the family. Family members commit approximately 62% of reported sex abuse crimes. Only 2-3% of sexual abuse crimes are committed by strangers.



Other Types of Abuse

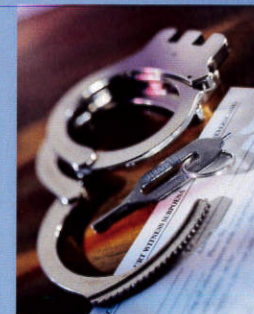
Abuse includes mental or emotional injury to a child, and actions or inactions by adults that, while they may not constitute crimes, still justify intervention by the appropriate authorities to prevent further harm.

Report Child Abuse

We all have a deep moral obligation to report and prevent child abuse. We also have a legal obligation to report. Under Texas law "a person having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect" has a duty to make a report to The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. In addition, if a person learns of behavior that constitutes a crime, the person should make a report to law enforcement. Relevant contact information is listed below.

Reporting Contact Information

Law Enforcement:	Dial 911
Texas CPS Child Abuse Hotline:	1-800-252-5400
	(TTY) 1-800-735-2989
National Child Abuse Hotline:	1-800-4-A-CHILD
	1-800-422-4453



Resources for Additional Information:

www.mctxdao.org

www.childwelfare.gov

www.preventchildabuse.org

www.dfps.state.tx.us/itsuptoyou/

www.txabusehotline.org



Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable in our society, a life free of violence and fear.

Nelson Mandela

Too often children are the victims of crimes that are under-reported and therefore under-prosecuted. We must protect every child and keep them safe from their abusers.

Brett Ligon



Brett Ligon
Montgomery County District Attorney

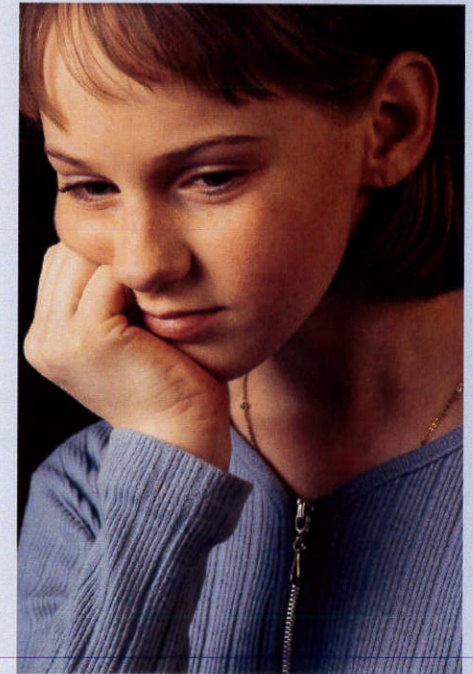
207 West Phillips, 2nd Floor
Conroe, TX 77301

Phone: (936) 539-7800
Fax: (936) 760-6997

Montgomery County District Attorney



Child Abuse Awareness Brochure



Take a Stand Against Child Abuse

