

What is your responsibility?

Your responsibility is to immediately report your concerns about the child's safety and well-being.

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development will make the decision about whether the situation is abuse or neglect.
- If you are not sure about whether the situation represents child abuse or neglect—report it.

Legal duty to report

If you have reason to believe a child needs protection you must promptly report your concern to a social worker with the Ministry for Children and Families as per Section 13 of the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA).

If you fail to report your concern, you have committed an offence (Section 14 of the CFCSA).



If you have any questions regarding the content of this brochure, please call the SD 20 Director of Student Support Services at 250.368.2232.

How to report

Document the details of the disclosure or evidence as accurately and comprehensively as possible.

Call Centralized Screening at the Ministry for Children and Families immediately.

- 1-800-663-9122
- Or call the local office (250-365-8575 Castlegar area or 250-364-0540 Trail area) and ask to be connected to Centralized Screening
- In the rare event that you cannot reach a social worker, call the RCMP:
 - * Castlegar 250-365-7221
 - * Fruitvale/Rossland/Trail 250.364.2566

What happens next?

The Ministry for Children and Families social workers will investigate your concerns and determine if a child is in need of protection, according to the law. The RCMP may conduct a criminal investigation.



**Kootenay-Columbia
School District No.20**

Child Abuse And Neglect



What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse is any sexual exploitation of a child, whether consensual or not.

Indicators:

- Unusual or excessive itching in the genital or anal area
- Torn, stained or bloody underwear
- Pregnancy
- Injuries to the genital or anal area (eg, bruising, swelling or infection)
- Venereal disease
- Age inappropriate play with toys, self or others displaying explicit sexual acts
- Age inappropriate sexually explicit drawing and/or descriptions
- Bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge
- Seductive behaviours

How do you decide if the behaviour is sexual in nature?

Would a reasonable observer, looking at the behaviour in the context of which it occurred, conclude that it is sexual in nature? (ie, If the activity is between children, is there a significant age or power difference? Is the older OR more powerful child clearly taking sexual advantage of a younger or less powerful child?)

- excludes consensual, developmentally appropriate sexual activity between children where there is no significant difference in age or power

What is physical abuse?

Any deliberate physical assault or action which results in (or may partially result in) physical harm to a child.

Indicators:

- Injuries that are not consistent with explanation
- Presence of several injuries that are in various stages
- Facial injuries in infants and preschool children
- Injuries inconsistent with the child's age and developmental stage
- Cannot recall how injuries occurred or offers an inconsistent explanation
- Wary of adults
- May change or flinch if touched unexpectedly
- Infants may display a vacant stare
- Extremely aggressive or extremely withdrawn

What is emotional abuse?

Those responsible for the care of the child act in a way which is likely to produce long-term and serious emotional disorder.

Indicators:

- Bed wetting that is non-medical in origin
- Frequent physical complaints, headaches, nausea, abdominal pains
- Child fails to thrive
- Severe depression
- Extreme withdrawal or aggressiveness
- Overly compliant, too well mannered, too neat or clean
- Extreme attention seeking
- Displays extreme inhibition in play

What is neglect?

Those responsible for the care of the child fail to meet the child's physical, emotional or medical needs to the extent that the child's health, development or safety is at risk.

Indicators:

- Poor hygiene
- Unattended physical or medical needs
- Consistent lack of supervision
- Pale, listless
- Frequent absence from school
- Inappropriate clothing for the weather, dirty clothes
- Frequently does not bring a lunch

What is deprivation of necessary health care?

Two (2) medical practitioners state that the health care is essential to preserve the child's life, or to prevent serious or permanent impairment of the child's health.

Parent or guardian refuses consent for the essential health care.

