

Neglect

- Constant hunger
- Poor personal hygiene
- Constant tiredness
- Poor state of clothing
- Emaciation
- Untreated medical problems
- No social relationships
- Compulsive scavenging
- Destructive tendencies

Note:

- A child may be subjected to a combination of different kinds of abuse
- It is also possible that a child may show no outward signs and hide what is happening from everyone.



**STOP
CHILD ABUSE!**

How to refer?

Referrals are usually done through the school by filling in the appropriate referral form. Parents can use the Child Safety telephone line for consultation.

Child Safety Services

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**WE ARE
HERE
TO
HELP**



Child Safety Services

Child Safety Service is part of the Safe School Programs within the Education Directorate. It is a specialized service that deals with cases of Child Abuse.

Mission statement :

Our mission is to provide intervention and prevention services to students, parents and educators; offering effective and professional services, catering for the needs of children who have experienced abuse.



Services offered:

• **Consultation**

Child Safety Services offer a service of consultation to all schools in Malta and Gozo when child abuse is suspected.

Prevention Programmes:

- **Students:** On request
- **Parents:** Parents Awareness Programs are offered in all schools.
- **Training:** Child Safety Services offer training to all teaching and non-teaching staff in schools.
- **Co-ordination:** Co-ordination of a number of professionals from different agencies working with the child who has suffered some form of abuse
- **Support:** We offer support to students who have suffered the trauma of abuse.
- **Research:** Research on topics related to Child Abuse.

Child Abuse—Signs and Symptoms

- Being overly affectionate or knowledgeable in a sexual way inappropriate to the child's age.
- Medical problems such as chronic itching, pain the genitals, venereal diseases.
- Other extreme reactions, such as depression, self mutilation, suicide attempts, running away, overdoses, anorexia.
- Personality changes such as becoming insecure or clinging.
- Regressing to younger behaviour patterns such as thumb sucking or bringing out discarded cuddly toys.
- Sudden loss of appetite or compulsive eating.
- Being isolated or withdrawn.
- Inability to concentrate.
- Lack of trust or fear of someone they know well, such as not wanting to be alone with a babysitter or child minder.
- Starting to wet again, day or night/nightmares.
- Become worried about clothing being removed.
- Suddenly drawing sexually explicit pictures.
- Trying to be 'ultra-good' or perfect; overreacting to criticism.

Physical Abuse

- Unexplained recurrent injuries or burns.
- Improbable excuses or refusal to explain injuries
- Wearing clothes to cover injuries, even in hot weather.
- Refusal to undress for PE lessons.
- Bald patches.
- Chronic running away.
- Fear of medical help or examination.
- Self-destructive tendencies.
- Aggression towards others
- Fear of physical contact—shrinking back if touched.
- Admitting that they are punished, but the punishment is excessive (Such as a child being beaten every night to 'make him study')
- Fear of suspected abuser being contacted.

Emotional Abuse

- Physical, mental and emotional development lags.
- Sudden speech disorders.
- Continual self-depreciation (I'm stupid, ugly, worthless, etc).
- Overreaction to mistakes.
- Extreme fear of many situation
- Inappropriate response to pain ('I deserve this')
- Neurotic behaviour (rocking, hair twisting, self-mutilation).
- Extreme of passivity or aggression.