

The Many Faces of Abuse & Neglect

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Today's Goal

To increase your awareness of...

- The number of children affected by abuse and neglect
- The laws that define abuse and neglect
- Your role as a Mandated Reporter
- The signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect

Reports of Abuse & Neglect

2.9 million referrals concerning the welfare of approximately 5.5 million children were made to CPS agencies throughout the United States.

Approximately one-third were not accepted for investigation or assessment.

Abuse Defined

... any non-accidental physical injury, or injury that is at variance with the history given of it, suffered by a child as the result of acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of the child.

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 232.68

Meet Angelina 6 years old



Sexual Abuse...

- The commission of a sexual offense with or to a child
- Allowing, permitting, or encouraging the child to engage in prostitution
- The commission of bestiality in the presence of a minor by a person who resides in a home with a child...

Emotional Abuse Is...

...any mental injury to a child's intellectual or psychological capacity as evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment in the child's ability to function within the child's normal range of performance and behavior as the result of the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of the child, if the impairment is diagnosed and confirmed by a licensed physician or qualified mental health professional.

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 232.68

Meet Michael 4 years old



Neglect

- The failure on the part of a person responsible for the care of a child to provide for the adequate food, shelter, clothing, or other care necessary for the child's health and welfare ...
- The presence of an illegal drug in a child's body ...
- Cohabitation with a person listed on the sex offender registry

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 232.68

Parental Drug Use

That the person responsible for the care of a child has, in the presence of the child, manufactured a dangerous substance or possesses a product containing ephedrine, its salts, optical isomers, salts of optical isomers, or pseudoephedrine, its salts, optical isomers, or salts of optical isomers, with the intent to use the product as a precursor or an intermediary to a dangerous substance



Citation: Ann. Stat. § 232.68

Iowa Exception

A parent or guardian legitimately practicing religious beliefs who does not provide specified medical treatment for a child for that reason alone shall not be considered abusing the child. This provision shall not preclude a court from ordering that medical service be provided to the child where the child's health requires it.

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 232.68

2007 Stats

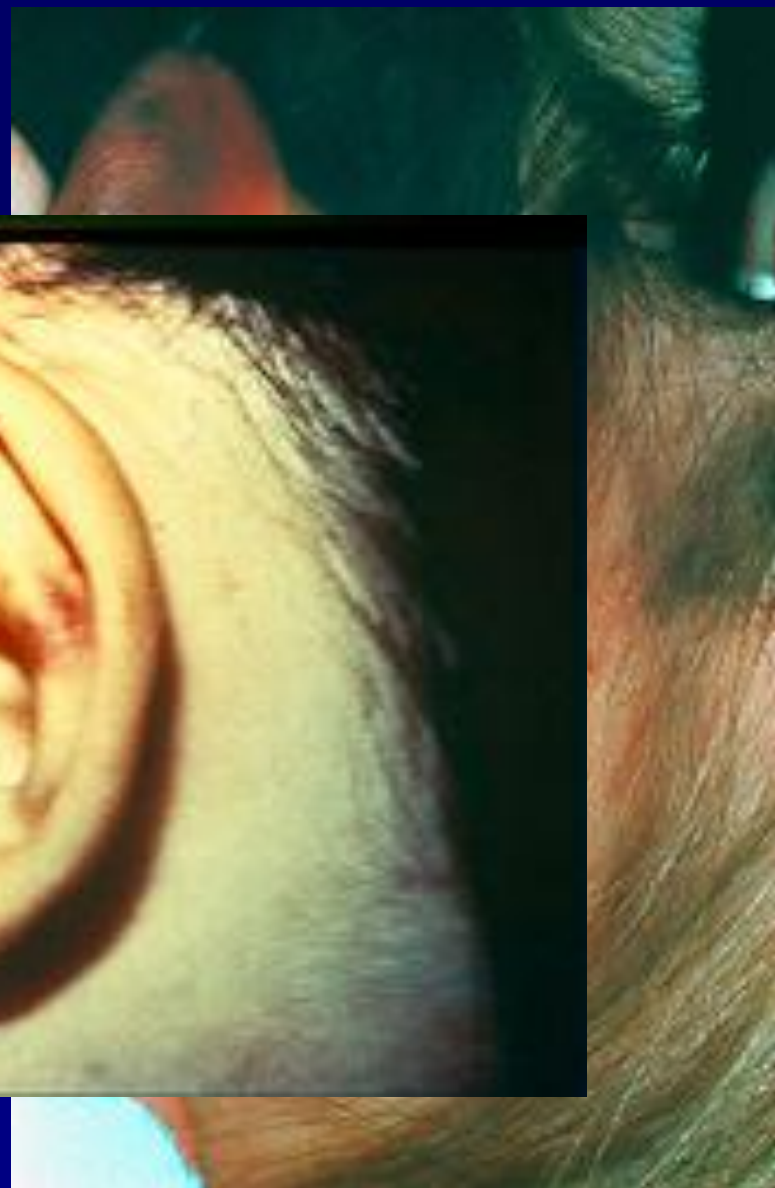
National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect

3.5 Million Reports

794,000 children were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect.

- 59% were victims of neglect
- 10.8% were physically abused
- 7.6% were sexually abused
- 4.2% were emotionally abused

Meet Marco 5 years old



Deaths From Abuse & Neglect

In 2007 approximately 1,760 children died from maltreatment.

- 42% < 1 year old
- 76% < 4 years old
- 13% were 4 to 7 years old
- 5% were 8 to 11 years old
- 6% were 12 to 17 years old

Meet Baby Annika 11 months



Common Injuries In All Forms Of Abuse

- Cuts and bruises, pattern injuries
- Fractures, sprains and dislocations
- Injuries to the head, neck and chest
- Cheek (slap mark)
- Earlobe (pinch mark)
- Repeated or chronic injuries
- Bite marks
- Hair pulls

Perpetrators

- 38.7% - Mother acting alone
- 17.9% - Father acting alone
- 16.8% - Both parents
- 3% - Unmarried partners of parents

The remaining perpetrators included persons with other or unknown relationships to the victims

Meet Alex 14 years old



Reporters

- 57.7% of all reports that alleged child abuse or neglect were made by "Mandatory Reporters"
- Friends, neighbors, and relatives submitted approximately 43% of reports.

Who is a Mandated Reporter In Iowa?

- Health practitioners
- Social workers or psychologists
- School employees...
- Employees or operators of health care facilities, child care centers, Head Start programs, family development and self-sufficiency grant programs, substance abuse programs or facilities, juvenile detention or juvenile shelter care facilities, foster care facilities, or mental health centers
- Employees of Department of Human services institutions
- Peace officers, counselors, or mental health professionals
- Commercial film and photographic print processors

Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 232.69; 728.14

Reporting Standards

- ...in the scope of his or her professional practice or employment responsibilities, reasonably believes that a child has been abused.
- A commercial film and photographic print processor has knowledge of or observes a film, photograph, videotape, negative, or slide that depicts a minor engaged in a prohibited sexual act or in the simulation of a prohibited sexual act.

Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 232.69; 728.14

Meet Baby Karyn 6 months



PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

The husband-wife or health practitioner-patient privilege does not apply to evidence regarding abuse to a child.



Citation: Ann. Stat. § 232.74

RADAR

R = **Recognize** signs and symptoms of abuse/neglect

A = **Ask** direct, non-judgmental questions with compassion

D = **Document** your findings

A = **Assess** patient safety

R = **Review** options, refer, report

Meet Baby Simon 4 months



RED FLAGS



- Repeated injuries (multiple bruises)
- Inappropriate behavior
- Neglected appearance
- Strict, super-critical parents or care providers
- Extremely isolated families
- Mental and physical disabilities

Patient History

- Obtain history from patient and care provider separately if possible. Do they match?
- Is the injury consistent with the history?
- History or similar injuries in the past?

Meet Toni



Document Thoroughly

Record clinical, behavioral and environmental findings in your PCR



Once A Report Is Filed

Report is investigated. If substantiated, Social Services may initiate:

- Counseling services for the family
- Reunification services
- Abuser's removal from family
- Child's separation from family
 - Removing the child from the family is the last resort

Meet Matthew 11 Years old



Consequences of Not Reporting

Any person, official, agency, or institution required to report a suspected case of child abuse who knowingly and willfully fails to do so is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

Any person, official, agency, or institution, required by § 232.69 to report a suspected case of child abuse who knowingly fails to do so, or who knowingly interferes with the making of such a report in violation of § 232.70, is civilly liable for the damages proximately caused by such failure or interference.

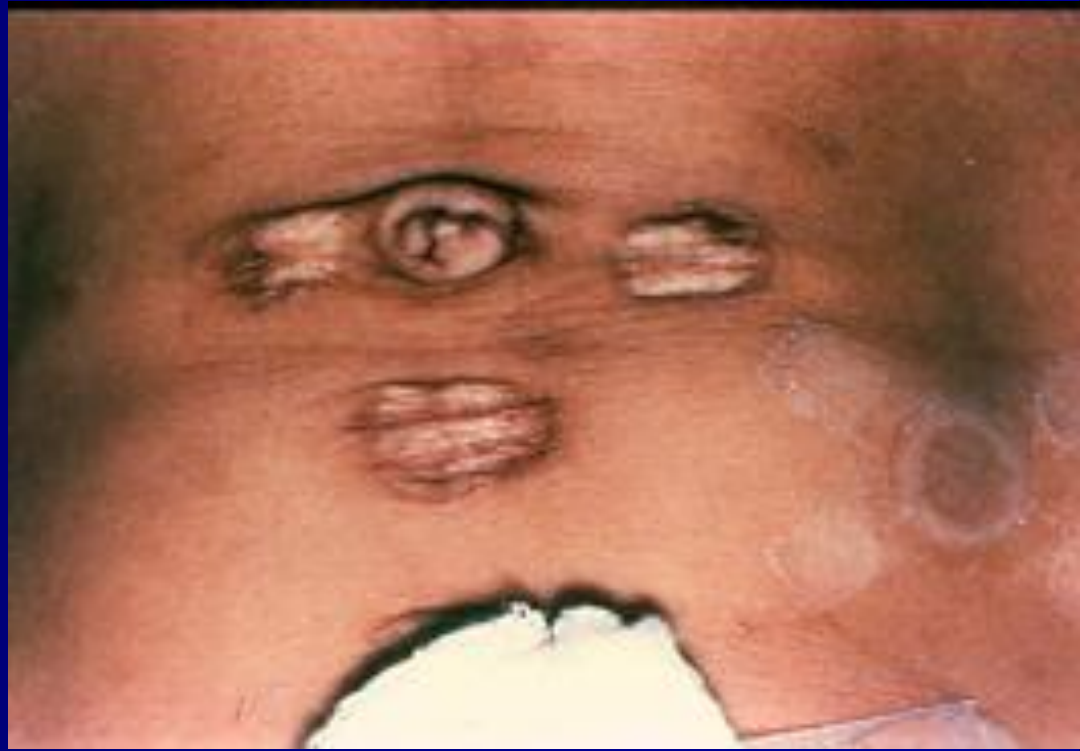
Stürmer-Weber Syndrome (SWS)



Moxibustion

A folk medicine practice of Southeast Asians

An herbal substance is burned on the child's abdomen in an attempt to cure disease.



Am J Dis Child, 1984, Vol. 138, pp 768-769

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Coining (Cao Gao)

A healing practice among Asians in which hot coins are rubbed over a warm ligament on the individual's back or chest.



Cupping

A healing practice of Mexico, South America and some Asian cultures. Warm cups with suction are placed over the chest to draw out illness.



Safe Haven Laws

- Also Known as “Baby Moses Laws”
- Address the increase of infanticide and abandonment
- Provides anonymity and shields parent from prosecution
- As of November of 2007, 46 states have enacted such laws

IA Safe Haven Requirements

- **Infant must be 14 days or younger**
- **Parent or designee may relinquish child**
- **Who May Receive the Infant**
 - Hospital
 - 24/7 medical facilities

Responsibilities of the Safe Haven Provider

- Notify Department of Human Services as soon as possible.



Summary

- We have a duty to report suspected abuse/neglect
- Early intervention can prevent further abuse
- You may be liable for not reporting
- Immunity and anonymity for reporters
- Patient confidentiality not applicable

Please Remember...

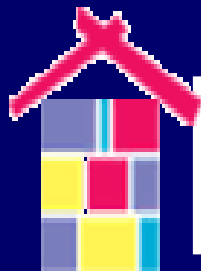
*Our awareness
of what child
abuse looks
like will help us
to protect
those who
cannot protect
themselves.*



Resources



<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>



Child Welfare Information Gateway
PROTECTING CHILDREN ■ STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

<http://www.childwelfare.gov>

Thank You!

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