

Child Abuse and Neglect Training

Illinois C. Wilson III

Supervisor, Cuyahoga County Division of Children
and Family Services

Main Room 126

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Child Abuse and Neglect Training



Illinois Wilson III, MPA
Supervisor, Cuyahoga County
Division of Children and Family Services



Cuyahoga County
Together We
Thrive

Child Abuse and Neglect



Illinois Wilson III

Today's presenter has no financial relationship with any commercial interest related to the content of this activity.

Accreditation Statement: The MetroHealth System is accredited by the Ohio State Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The MetroHealth System designates this educational activity for a maximum of 5.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. Other Healthcare Professionals: check with your professional association as these credits might be applicable for licensure renewal.



Training Objectives

1. Increase understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS) when a referral is received.
2. Review of the Reporting Statute, ORC 2151.421, and its requirements
3. Develop a working relationship/partnership to keep children safe.
4. Provide a comprehensive definition of abuse and neglect.

Division of Children and Family Services

Mission

To assure that children at risk of abuse and neglect are protected and nurtured within a family and with the support of the community as we strive to end the over-representation of people of color in the child welfare system.

Vision

To improve the lives of children as a result of our attention, care and support.

Our Values

- Safety, permanency and well-being of children
- Urgency
- Family connections
- Youth voice
- Strong partnerships
- Inclusion
- Respect for each other



Division of Children and Family Services

What We Believe

We believe kids belong safely with their families.

We believe kids deserve the best possible individualized care when they cannot be safe in their own homes.

We believe kids and families get the best possible services when we engage with them on a regular basis.

We believe kids and the community rely on our response to protect children. We will resolve barriers within our system to do so safely and responsibly.

We believe kids and their families need community resources at their fingertips when times get tough.

Outcomes for Children and Families

- Kids are safe and stable.
- Kids belong with a forever family.
- Kids need us to check on them and their caregivers frequently when we have a reason to be involved in their lives.
- Kids deserve to have a sense of security that adults will not harm or mistreat them in the future.
- Kids who have experienced the trauma of removal need the help of the community to support their families and prevent future abuse and neglect.

What is Abuse and Neglect?



Quiz yourself

- Child abuse and neglect occur at about the same frequency.
- True – Abuse and Neglect occur at about the same frequency. Abuse, includes various forms of physical, psychological and sexual maltreatment. Experience would indicate that neglect occurs at a higher rate than abuse. Some professionals feel that, because abuse is more easily recognized and generally perceived by the public as more serious than neglect, a larger percentage of abuse case are reported.

Quiz yourself

- Child abuse and neglect occur rarely.
- False - In Ohio, 94,973 children were identified as victims of maltreatment in 2020.

Quiz yourself

- Abused and neglected children almost always are from low-income families.
- False – Maltreated children can be found in all income groups.

Quiz yourself

- Abused children usually will discuss the abuse in an effort to stop it.
- False – To a child, the fear of the unknown may be much more frightening than the abuse itself. Children will often try to hide their injuries in an attempt to protect their parent or caretaker.

Quiz yourself

- The difference between abuse and neglect is that abuse represents an action against a child while neglect represents a lack of action for the child.
- True – Abuse may be thought of as an act of commission and neglect as an act of omission.

Neglect

- An act of omission
- ORC 2151.03
- Not meeting the needs of:
 - Food
 - Shelter
 - Safety
 - Education
 - Clothing
 - Medical

Neglect - indicators

- Withdrawn
- Hostile
- Depression
- Craving attention, even from strangers
- Drop in grades
- Untreated chronic lice, scabies, or other infections
- Hoarding food
- Wearing same clothes for several days in a row
- Unclean
- Untreated medical conditions or refusal to take to a doctor
- Insect (flea) bites

Quiz yourself

- Neglect is most apt to involve children from infancy to six years of age.
- True – There is no tendency for neglect to occur more frequently in any group, however, children under six are at a higher risk of abuse than children of any other age group.

Dependency

- A child whose condition or environment is such as to warrant the state, in the interest of the child, in assuming the child's guardianship per ORC 2151.04
 - Homeless
 - Destitute
 - Without adequate parental care
 - Through ***no fault*** of the parent, guardian, custodian
 - Mental or physical condition of the parent

Educational Concerns

House Bill 410: Absenteeism & Truancy

- Promotes a school's engagement with parents/guardians & creates intervention team processes.
 - “Habitual Truant” = absent without legitimate excuse
 - 30 or more consecutive school hours
 - 42 or more hours in one school month
 - 72 or more hours in one school year
 - A report should be considered when there are concerns regarding neglect due to absences of children and when good faith efforts to engage parents are not successful

Quiz yourself

- A child under 12 years of age should never be left at home alone.
- False – When determining the appropriateness of a child being left alone, consider their age, maturity, responsibilities expected of them, length of time alone, and knowledge of safety techniques.

Abuse

- An act of commission (inflicted) against a child.
- ORC 2151.031
- Types:
 - Physical
 - Sexual

Physical Abuse - indicators

- Physical indicators:
 - Linear bruises
 - Welts
 - Burns (cigarette, stocking/glove burns)
 - Bruises with specific shapes
 - Spiral fractures
 - Bald patches of hair
 - Human bite marks
 - Bruises to face or neck
- Behavioral indicators:
 - Clothing that is inappropriate for weather
 - Fear of specific individuals
 - Behavioral extremes (withdrawn, regression aggression)
 - Unbelievable explanation of injury
 - Reluctance to return home.

Physical Abuse

- Where is the injury?
- What is the size and shape of the injury (specific shape of an object)?
- Is the story of the injury consistent with the injury itself?

Quiz yourself

- Bruises on the elbows, knees, shins, or forehead are likely to be accidental in a preschooler.
- True – Many injuries such as these are the result of the normal bumps and falls commonly experienced by children this age.

Quiz yourself

- Spanking and other types of physical discipline are wrong and considered child abuse.
- False – The key to recognizing if a parenting practice is abusive or neglectful is not whether it fits within your idea of proper parenting, but whether it places a child's physical or emotional well being at risk.

Physical Discipline

- Be culturally aware
- The terminology you use for discipline may have a different meaning to someone else (ie. Spanking, beating, whooping)

Emotional Abuse

- Chronic acts which interfere with the psychological development of a child

Emotional Abuse - indicators

- Physical indicators:
 - Sudden weight gain
 - Sudden weight loss
 - Frequent vomiting
 - Nervous disorders (hives, rash, facial tics)
- Behavioral indicators:
 - Poor peer relations
 - Fire setting
 - Withdrawn
 - Age-inappropriate behavior
 - Habit disorders
 - Biting
 - Rocking
 - Head banging

Quiz yourself

- Abuse may be directed toward only one child in the family.
- True – Many times, one child in the family will be seen as “special” by the parents. The child may require extra care because of a physical or mental handicap or may be labeled as different or difficult for little or no apparent reason.

Quiz yourself

- Most abusive and neglectful parents suffer from mental illness.
- False - It is estimated that only 10% of abusive or neglectful parents suffer from mental illness. The reasons why parents abuse or neglect are as varied as the parents themselves.

Sexual Abuse

- Any sexual activity involving children who are not of the age or developmental capacity to consent to such activity. This includes verbal sexual harassment, fondling of sexual organs, penile or digital penetration, pornography, and exposing a child to sexualized objects and/or materials.

ORC 2907 – Sex Offenses*

- Rape
- Sexual Battery
- Unlawful sexual conduct with a minor
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- Voyeurism
- Pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor

***This is not a complete list**

Sexting and the Law

2907.322 Pandering sexually oriented material

No person, with knowledge of the character of the material or performance involved shall....

- Create, record, photograph, film, develop, reproduce, or publish any material that shows a minor participating or engaging in sexual activity
- Knowingly advertise, present, create, direct, solicit, receive, purchase, exchange, possess, or control material

Sexual Abuse - indicators

- Physical indicators:
 - Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
 - Bruises or bleeding from external genitalia or genital area
 - Genital discharge
 - Bloody underwear
- Behavioral Indicators:
 - Fire setting
 - Bed wetting
 - Fecal smearing
 - Cruelty to animals or other children
 - Excessive masturbation
 - Layering clothing
 - Unusual sexual knowledge
 - Seductive behaviors

Quiz yourself

- Sexual abuse usually occurs between a child and a stranger.
- False – It is estimated that in 80% of the cases of sexual abuse, the perpetrator is an adult known to the child.

Quiz yourself

- A child will never enjoy a sexual touch.
- False – Sexuality is an inherent characteristic of the human body which is present at birth. The human body is programmed to enjoy sexual touch.

Good Touch/Bad Touch

- Bad touches can feel good
- Very confusing for children when asked about it
- Body parts covered by a bathing suit

Quiz yourself

- Children frequently will fantasize that they have been sexually abused to “get even” with an adult.
- False – A guide which always should be used is that when a child tells you that he/she has been sexually touched or used in any way, *believe it*.

Quiz yourself

- The sexual abuser can be the victim of a seductive or sexually promiscuous child.
- False – The child is *always* the victim. A seductive or promiscuous child often is the result, but never the cause of sexual abuse.

Quiz yourself

- In the majority of cases, sexually abused children want to leave their homes permanently.
- False – Most children do not want their families disrupted; they simply want the abuse to stop.

Quiz yourself

- Once incest is brought to the attention of the authorities, the family admits the problem and seeks help.
- False – The denial system of the family usually is very strong. Generally family members will insist that nothing has happened, and will claim that “it will never happen again”, even if confronted with undeniable circumstances.

Quiz yourself

- Abused or neglected children may become abusive or neglectful parents.
- True - A term often used when child maltreatment is discussed is “the cycle of abuse and neglect.” Very few parents have had formal preparation for the role of being a parent and instead tend to model parenting and behaviors after those learned as a child.

Who should make a referral?

Mandated reporters*

- Attorney
- Physician
- Dentist
- Podiatrist
- RN, LPN
- Psychologist
- Religious practitioner
- Audiologist
- Coroner
- Child care center employee
- School teacher/employee
- Social worker
- Humane Society employee
- Peace Officer

*Per ORC 2151.421

This is not a complete list

Quiz yourself

- Medical, health-related, mental health, and legal professionals are not legally required to report child and neglect because of their responsibility to keep client confidentiality.
- False – The responsibility to report is a moral duty inherent to the helping disciplines.

When & How Should You Make a Referral?



Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect

The person making the report shall make it to the public children services agency or a municipal or county peace officer in the county in which the child resides or in which the abuse or neglect is occurring or has occurred (**2151.421**)

- A child under 18
- Developmentally Disabled
- Physically impaired under 21 facing a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, injury, disability, or condition of a nature reasonably indicating abuse or neglect.

Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect

- Any report made must be made ***right away***

AND

- will be followed by a written report, ***if requested*** by the receiving agency or officer.

How to make a referral:

- **Online:** <https://cuyahogacounty.us/child-abuse-and-neglect>
- **Phone:** 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline at [216-696-KIDS \(5437\)](tel:216-696-KIDS)
- **Email:** Protecting-Cuyahoga-Kids@jfs.ohio.gov
- **In-person:** Jane Edna Hunter Building, 3955 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115
- **Fax:** 216-432-3501



Information Helpful to the Agency When Receiving a Report

(1) Names and addresses of the child and the child's parents or the person or persons having custody of the child, if known; as well as information regarding other children or adults living in the home.

(2) Child's age and the nature and extent of the child's injuries, abuse, or neglect that is known or reasonably suspected or believed, as applicable, to have occurred, or the threat of injury, abuse, or neglect that is known or reasonably suspected or believed, as applicable, to exist, including any evidence of previous injuries, abuse, or neglect;

(3) Any other information that might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injury, abuse, or neglect that is known or reasonably suspected or believed, as applicable, to have occurred

Information that may be helpful in establishing the threat of injury, abuse, or neglect that is known or reasonably suspected or believed, as applicable, to exist.

- Ex. attendance records for an educational neglect case

Quiz yourself

- You must have evidence of abuse or neglect before you report it.
- False – Ohio law states that a report should be made if you have “reason to believe” that abuse or neglect is occurring. Physical proof or other validation is not required.

What Happens When a Referral is Made?



Quiz yourself

- An anonymous report of abuse and neglect will not be investigated.
- False – Children’s Services is required by law to investigate *every* report of suspected child abuse and neglect which it receives.

Investigation

- What happens when workers investigate a referral?

Parental Consent

Ohio Law provides that children can be interviewed without parental consent if **critical** circumstances exist, meaning there is credible information indicating:

- the child is in immediate danger of serious harm.
- the child will be in immediate danger of serious harm upon returning home from school or other locations away from his or her home.
- the child may be intimidated from discussing the alleged abuse or neglect in his or her home.

OR

- the child requests to be interviewed at school or another location due to one of the circumstances listed in a.-c. above.

If a Child Protection Specialist is asking to interview a child without getting the consent of the parent, it is because he/she, after consulting with a supervisor, has determined that **critical** circumstances exist.

Dispositions

- **Substantiated:**
 - Admission of child abuse or neglect by the person responsible
 - An adjudication of child abuse or neglect
 - Other forms of confirmation deemed valid by the PCSA.
- **Indicated:**
 - There is circumstantial, or other isolated indicators of child abuse or neglect lacking confirmation
 - A determination by the caseworker that the child has been abused or neglected based upon completion of an assessment/investigation.
- **Unsubstantiated:**
 - There is no evidence of abuse or neglect; or there is no conclusive medical finding of abuse, and no other indicators of abuse or neglect
 - Family has been located, but the parents or legal guardians/custodians refuse to cooperate with the investigation or provide access to the child
 - Family is missing or evasive and there is no collateral information to provide a basis for a finding of an indicated or substantiated report
 - There are facts that indicate that the report is erroneous or otherwise unfounded.

Division of Children and Family Services

- Deliver the right services, in the right amount, at the right time.
- Short Term Services:
 - Completes assessment
 - Determines the need for services
 - Provides services for up to 90 days.
- Extended Services:
 - Court involved cases, long-term permanency

Quiz yourself

- If you report abuse or neglect, and your suspicions are unfounded, you are liable for civil or criminal suit.
- False – Any person participating in making a good faith report of suspected child abuse or neglect is immune from civil or criminal liability.

Immunity

- Anyone or any hospital, institution, school, health department, or agency participating in good faith in the making of reports, and anyone participating in good faith in a judicial proceeding resulting from the reports, shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property.

Report and Reporter are Confidential

- The information provided in a report and the name of the person who made the report shall not be released for use, and shall not be used, as evidence in any civil action or proceeding brought against the person who made the report.

Exception:

- In a criminal proceeding, the report is admissible in evidence in accordance with the Rules of Evidence and is subject to discovery in accordance with the Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Unauthorized Dissemination

- No person shall permit or encourage the unauthorized dissemination of the contents of any report made under this section. A violation is a misdemeanor of the Fourth degree
- See: OAC 5101:2-33-21 which governs who may receive and under what circumstances a report may be shared.

ORC 2151.99



False Reports

- A person who knowingly makes or causes another person to make a false report that alleges that any person has committed an act or omission that resulted in a child being an abused child or a neglected child is guilty of a violation of section 2921.14 of the Revised Code, a first degree misdemeanor.

Quiz yourself

- Early reporting is encouraged so that the child may be removed from the home of the abusive parent.
- False – Early reporting is encouraged to prevent injury or harm to the child.

Interested in being a Foster or Adoptive Parent

Call our Recruitment Department at
(216) 881-5775

Or visit our website:
everychildneedsfamily.com

Other Ways to Help

1. Donate:

Quarterly campaigns: toys, Spring baskets, backpacks with school supplies, Halloween candy

Special collections: books, coats, hats & gloves, socks, underwear, clothes, PJs, etc.

2. Volunteer:

Special programs: Teen Thanksgiving Dinner, Hope for the Holidays, Spring Family Fun, Backpack assembly & distribution, Halloween

3. Mentor:

1-on-1 or group opportunities available for youth in foster care ages 10+

Contact DCFS Outreach Staff for more information

DCFSOutreach@jfs.ohio.gov

216-881-4150



