

# WHAT IS DONE TO ONE IS FELT BY ALL

## PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

American Indian and Alaska Native children suffer some of the highest rates of abuse in the U.S.

**Child abuse** is any act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caregiver which results in the physical or emotional harm of a child under the age of 18.

### Signs of child abuse

- **Neglect.** Frequent absence from school; begging for or stealing food or money; lacking medical or dental care; consistently dirty; or states that there is no one at home to provide care.
- **Physical abuse.** Unexplained injuries; seems frightened of caregivers and protests or cries when it is time to go home; or fear of adults.
- **Sexual abuse.** Difficulty walking or sitting; suddenly refuses to change for gym; nightmares or bedwetting; bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior; or runs away.
- **Emotional abuse.** Extremely withdrawn or extremely aggressive; emotional or developmental delays; desperately seeks affection; or lack of attachment to parents.

If a child tells you that he or she has been abused by someone, the most important thing you can do is **LISTEN**. Ask **ONLY** four questions:

1. **What happened?**
2. **Who did this to you?**
3. **Where were you?**
4. **When did this happen?**

Asking any additional questions could cause a child more harm than good.

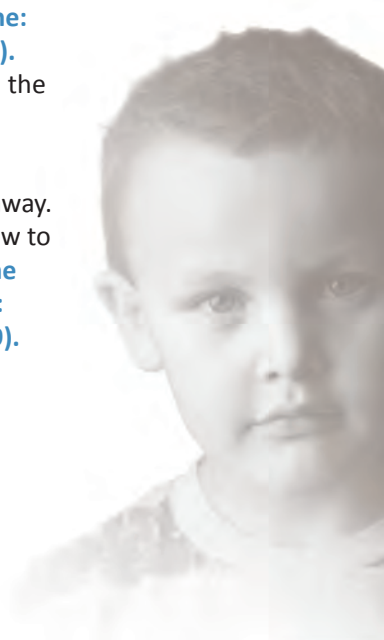
For more information on how to help a child, visit [www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)

If a child is in immediate danger, **call 911**.

**If you suspect abuse, call the National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD (422-4453).**

Counselors can talk through the situation with you and help decide what to do next.

Many abused children run away. For more information on how to help a runaway child, **call the National Runaway Safeline: 1-800-RUNAWAY (786-2929).**



(Placeholder for local resource label)