

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- **Emotional abuse.** Extremely withdrawn or extremely aggressive; emotional or developmental delays; desperately seeks affection; or lack of attachment to parents.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.

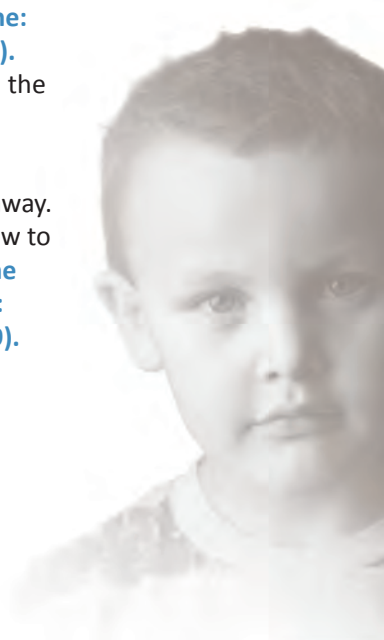
For more information on how to help a child, visit www.childhelp.org

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)