

Report **CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT**

If you're concerned that a child is being neglected or abused, it is critical that you report it.

In case of an emergency, call 911. In non-emergency situations, call the police or the Cass County Social Services Intake Unit at 701.241.5765.

Get in touch

CASS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES
1010 2 AVE. S. - 3RD FLOOR
701.241.5765
8 A.M TO 5 P.M.

[HTTPS://WWW.CASSCOUNTYND.GOV/OUR-COUNTY/SOCIAL-SERVICES](https://www.casscountynd.gov/our-county/social-services)

FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
701.235.4493

WWW.FARGOPOLICE.COM

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT



It shouldn't hurt to be a child.

DEFINITION

Child abuse can result from physical, emotional, or sexual harm. While child abuse is often in the form of an action, there are also examples of inaction that cause harm, such as neglect where a child's caregiver fails to provide for the child's basic needs including adequate health care, supervision, clothing, nutrition, housing as well as their physical, emotional, social, educational and safety needs.

Child abuse is widespread and can occur in any cultural, ethnic, or income group. Abuse can have both an immediate and long lasting negative impact on children's development and physical and psychological well being. Child abuse may result in serious injury to the child and possibly even death.

SYMPTOMS

It's not always easy to recognize when a child has been abused. Children who are abused are often afraid to complain because they are fearful that they will be blamed or that no one will believe them. Additionally, the person who abused them may be someone they love very much and want to protect.

Watch out for unexplained changes in a child's body or behavior. Signs of physical abuse may include any injury that cannot be explained such as bruises, burns, fractures, abdominal or head injuries.

Signs of sexual abuse may include fearful behavior such as nightmares, depression, unusual fears,

attempts to run away, abdominal pain, bed wetting urinary tract infection, genital pain or bleeding, sexually transmitted disease, extreme sexual behavior that seems inappropriate for the child's age.

Signs of emotional abuse may include a sudden change in self-confidence, headaches or stomachaches with no medical cause, abnormal fears, increased nightmares or attempts to run away.

Signs of emotional neglect may include failure to gain weight, desperately affectionate behavior, voracious appetite and stealing food.