

Appendix I: Definitions of Abuse

(taken from '*Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*')

Neglect

- child suffers harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults/or medical care
- harm can be defined as the ill treatment or the impairment of the health or development of a child. Whether it is significant is determined by the child's health and development as compared to that which could reasonably be expected of a child of a similar age
- neglect generally becomes apparent in different ways over a period of time rather than at one specific point

Emotional

- emotional abuse is normally to be found in the relationship between parent/carer and a child rather than in a specific event or pattern of events. It occurs when a child's developmental need for affection, approval, consistency and security are not met. Unless other forms of abuse are present, it is rarely manifested in terms of physical signs or symptoms. Examples may include:
 - the imposition of negative attributes on a child, expressed by persistent criticism, sarcasm, hostility or blaming
 - conditional parenting in which the level of care shown to a child is made contingent on his or her behaviours or actions
 - emotional unavailability of the child's parent/carer
 - unresponsiveness of the parent/carer and/or inconsistent or inappropriate expectations of the child
 - premature imposition of responsibility on the child
 - unrealistic or inappropriate expectations of the child's capacity to understand something or to behave and control himself or herself in a certain way
 - under- or over-protection of the child
 - failure to show interest in, or provide age-appropriate opportunities for, the child's cognitive and emotional development
 - use of unreasonable or over-harsh disciplinary measures
 - exposure to domestic violence
 - exposure to inappropriate or abusive material through new technology
- emotional abuse can be manifested in terms of the child's behavioural, cognitive, affective or physical functioning. Examples of these include insecure attachment, unhappiness, low self esteem, educational and developmental underachievement, and oppositional behaviour

Physical

- physical abuse of a child is that which results in actual or potential physical harm from an interaction, or lack of interaction, which is reasonably within the control of a parent or person in a position of responsibility, power or trust. There may be single or repeated incidents
- physical abuse can involve:

- severe physical punishment
- beating, slapping, hitting or kicking
- pushing, shaking or throwing
- pinching, biting, choking or hair-pulling
- terrorising with threats
- observing violence
- use of excessive force in handling
- deliberate poisoning
- suffocation
- fabricated/induced illness
- allowing or creating a substantial risk of significant harm to a child

Sexual

- sexual abuse occurs when a child is used by another person for his or her gratification or sexual arousal, or that of others. Examples may include:
 - exposure of the sexual organs or any sexual act intentionally performed in the presence of the child
 - intentional touching or molesting of the child whether by a person or object for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification
 - masturbation in the presence of the child or the involvement of the child in an act of masturbation
 - sexual intercourse with the child, whether oral, vaginal or anal
 - sexual exploitation of a child, which includes inciting, encouraging, propositioning, requiring or permitting a child to solicit for, or to engage in, prostitution or other sexual acts. Sexual exploitation also occurs when a child is involved in the exhibition, modeling or posing for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification or sexual act, including its recording (on film or other media) or the manipulation, for those purposes, of the image by computer or other means. It may also include showing sexually explicit material to children, which is often a feature of the 'grooming' process by perpetrators of abuse