



About the CAN Council

The CAN Council is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through its nationally accredited and evidence-based education, intervention and advocacy programs. Founded in 1979, the CAN Council has consistently grown over the past 40 years to meet the needs of the community's children and families, providing services in Arenac, Bay, Huron and Saginaw counties. For more information, visit CANcouncil.org or call (989) 752-7226.

Resources:

Child Welfare Information Gateway – childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/signs.cfm

Child Abuse and Neglect – helpguide.org/mental/child-abuse-physical-emotional-sexual-neglect.htm



Recognizing Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect

Physical Neglect: A pattern of failing to provide for a child's basic needs such as food, clothing, hygiene or supervision. Warning signs include:

- Clothing is ill-fitting, filthy or inappropriate for weather
- Hygiene is consistently bad (unbathed, matted and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor)
- Untreated illnesses and physical injuries
- Frequently unsupervised, left alone, or allowed to play in unsafe situations and environments
- Frequently late to or missing from school
- Begs for or steals food or money
- States there is no one at home to provide care

Physical Abuse: Non-accidental physical harm or injury to a child. Warning signs include:

- Frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts or cuts
- Shies away from touch
- Flinches at sudden movements
- Seems afraid to go home
- Wears inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries
- Sudden changes in behavior or school performance
- Comes to school early and/or stays late and does not want to go home

Sexual Abuse: Engaging in sexual contact or sexual penetration, including permitting or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution or photographing, filming or depicting a child engaged in a sexual act. Warning signs include:

- Trouble walking or sitting
- Displays knowledge of or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to age or engages in seductive behaviors
- Doesn't want to change clothes in front of others
- Sudden change in appetite
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age 12
- Runs away from home

Emotional Abuse/Maltreatment: Severe damage to mental health or social development, leaving lifelong psychological scars; name calling; telling a child he is no good, worthless, bad or a mistake; ignoring or rejecting a child. Warning signs include:

- Extreme behavior (aggressive, compliant or passive)
- Lack of attachment to parent
- Delayed development
- Infantile behaviors

Bay County (also serving Arenac County): 715 N. Euclid Avenue • Bay City, MI 48706 • (989) 671-1345

Huron County: 219 E. Huron Avenue • Bad Axe, MI 48413 • (989) 623-0257

Saginaw County: 1311 N. Michigan Avenue • Saginaw, MI 48602 • (989) 752-7226