



...Physical Abuse...

Physical abuse is generally the easier form of abuse to spot. This is because the signs are outward facing. The signs can be both physical and behavioural.

Physical:

- Bruises (old and new, clustered on one part of body, or on both upper arms)
- Burns
- Cuts or scars
- Bite marks
- Marks left by a gag (or some form of restraint)
- Imprint injuries (e.g. marks shaped like fingers, thumbs, hands, belts or sticks)
- Missing teeth
- Spotty balding (from pulled hair)
- Eye injuries (black eyes or detached retinas)
- Broken bones
- Sprains
- Abrasions or scrapes
- Vaginal or rectal pain
- Bleeding from the ears, nose or mouth
- Frequent urinary tract infections or yeast infections
- Painful urination
- Abrasions, bleeding, or bruising in the genital area
- Incontinence in someone who was previously toilet-trained
- Frequent sore throats
- Sudden onset of psychosomatic complaints (males most frequently complain of stomach aches while females most frequently report headaches)
- Sudden difficulty walking or sitting.

Behaviour:

- Changes in the way affection is shown, especially if unusual or inappropriate
- Suddenly fears being touched
- Sudden onset of nightmares
- Changes in sleep patterns; difficulty sleeping
- Sudden regression to childlike behaviours (i.e., bed-wetting, thumb-sucking)
- Sudden unusual interest in or knowledge of sexual matters (including excessive masturbation)
- Cruelty to animals
- Sudden fear of bathing or toileting
- Sudden fear of a person or place
- Depression, withdrawal, or mood swings.