What is Physical Abuse?
The following list is not inclusive and is meant as an aid.

Physical Signs
- Bruises or welts on the face, back, buttocks and patterns often indicating the implement used to inflict pain/punishment (e.g. belt, belt buckle, electrical cord)
- Burns on palms, sides, back, buttocks; burns on genitalia, caused by cigarettes, cigars; burns caused by immersion in hot liquid or various implements, such as irons or curling irons
- Suspicious cuts and abrasions
- Head injuries — bleeding and hair loss caused by hair pulling
- Fractures, especially long bone caused by pulling or twisting
- Internal injuries caused by hitting or kicking in the abdomen
- Inappropriate clothing for the weather to mask body injuries

Behaviors
- Hyperactivity, impulsivity
- Extreme behaviors, either aggressiveness or withdrawal
- Nervous habits or movements
- Excessive requests for food and tokens of affection
- Distrust of adults
- Display of adult responsibilities
- Frequent school absences or lateness
- Guarded responses when questioned regarding an injury or home life

If you have a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect, you must contact your local:

Department of Social Services
or
The Police Department

Prince George’s Department of Social Services
Hot Line
(301) 909-2450
Fax: (301) 909-2460

Evenings and Weekends
(301) 699-8605

General Number
(301) 909-2000

Toll Free Hot Line
1-800-552-7096

Prince George’s County Criminal Investigation for Child Abuse
(301) 772-4930

Inquires regarding this pamphlet should be directed to:

Dr. Adrian Talley
Executive Director
Department of Student Services
Prince George’s County Public Schools
Oxon Hill Staff Development Center
7711 Livingston Road, Suite K
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745
301-567-8670

The Board of Education of Prince George’s County does not discriminate in admissions, treatment, or employment on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. For TTD Services/Hearing & Speech Impaired, call 301-952-6068.
What is Child Maltreatment?
Child maltreatment is an intentional action that damages the personal health, safety and dignity of the victim in such a way that healing may take months, years or a lifetime.

This brochure addresses all aspects of the Maryland State Law for reporting child maltreatment as of the 1995 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Who is Responsible for Reporting Child Maltreatment?
Any person who believes or has reason to believe that a child has been abused or subjected to abuse by any parent, or other person who has permanent or temporary care, custody or responsibility for the supervision of a child, or by any household or family member under circumstances that indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed must report the abuse immediately.

What is the Process for Reporting Child Maltreatment?
Any person who has reason to believe that a case of child abuse has occurred shall make an immediate report by telephone or other direct communication to the County Department of Social Services or to the Domestic Investigation Unit, Criminal Investigation Division of the County Police Department. In the case of child neglect, the school employee or volunteer shall make the report as soon as possible to the county Department of Social Services only.

Are there Consequences for Failure to Report?
Yes, failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect is a violation of Maryland law. Mandated reporters who fail to report these acts may be subject to suspension or revocation of professional licensing or certification.

What About My Rights?
Any person who in good faith reports a suspicion of child abuse or neglect or any person who participates in an investigation or in a judicial proceeding regarding a report of child abuse or neglect shall be immune from any civil liability or criminal penalty, which might otherwise arise. All reporters are considered anonymous.

What is Abuse?
Abuse is defined as the physical or mental injury of a child by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a child, or by any household or family member, under circumstances that indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or at a substantial risk of being harmed.

What is Sexual Abuse?
Sexual abuse of a child, whether physical injuries are sustained or not, includes any act that involves sexual molestation or exploitation of a child by a parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a child, or by any household or family member. Sexual abuse includes incest, rape or sexual offense in any degree, sodomy and unnatural or perverted sexual practices. The following list is not inclusive and is meant as an aid.

**Physical Signs**
- Self inflicted injuries and/or suicidal actions
- Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Pain, offensive odor or itching in genital areas
- Bleeding in or bruises on genital areas
- Frequent use of bathroom/urinary tract infections
- Penile discharge or swelling

- Pregnancy or positive test for sexually transmitted disease
- Sophisticated attire inappropriate for age of child

Behaviors
- Clinging to adults or wary of adult contact
- Expressing affection inappropriately
- Unusual knowledge of sexual matters and sophisticated sexual play
- Refusing to undress in physical education class
- Passivity during a pelvic examination
- Isolation/poor peer relationships and/or withdrawal
- Difficulty concentrating/poor academic progress
- Regressive or aggressive behaviors
- Poor self-concept
- Flat affect
- Recurrent nightmares, disturbed sleep patterns, fear of the dark
- Use of drugs and delinquent acts e.g. running away

What is Neglect?
Child neglect means the leaving of a child unattended or other failure to give proper care and attention to a child by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for the supervision of the child under circumstances that indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or placed at substantial risk of harm, or there is mental injury to the child or a substantial risk of mental injury.