Family support professionals have frequent interactions with families and children in their homes. This may put you in situations where you have concerns about possible child abuse or neglect. As a mandated reporter, you are required to report all cases of suspected abuse or neglect to Child Protective Services (CPS).

**PHYSICAL ABUSE**
Any act which, regardless of intent, results in a non-accidental physical injury.

Indicators include:
- Bruises
- Lacerations
- Fractures
- Internal injuries
- Burn marks

**PHYSICAL NEGLECT**
Failure to provide food, clothing, shelter or care needed for the child’s health

- Consistent hunger
- Poor hygiene
- Inappropriate dress
- Lack of supervision
- Untended physical/medical needs
- Abandonment

**SEXUAL ABUSE**
Acts of sexual assault and sexual exploitation of minors

- Detailed and age-inappropriate understanding of sexual behavior
- Sudden drop in school performance
- Aggressive sexual acting out behavior in young children

**EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT**
Caretaker acts or omissions resulting in harm to a child's psychological or emotional health or development

- Speech disorders
- Frequent stomachaches or headaches
- Lag in physical development
- Learning problems
- Withdrawn
- Depression, anxiety, cutting
- Non-organic failure to thrive
- And more

**Resources**

- Recognizing, Reporting and Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect in Virginia (English)
- Recognizing, Reporting and Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect in Virginia (Spanish)
- Virginia Child Protection Newsletter (VCPN)
- VCPN past issues
- Child Protective Services in Virginia Overview
- Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-552-7096

*You can make a difference in a child’s life!*