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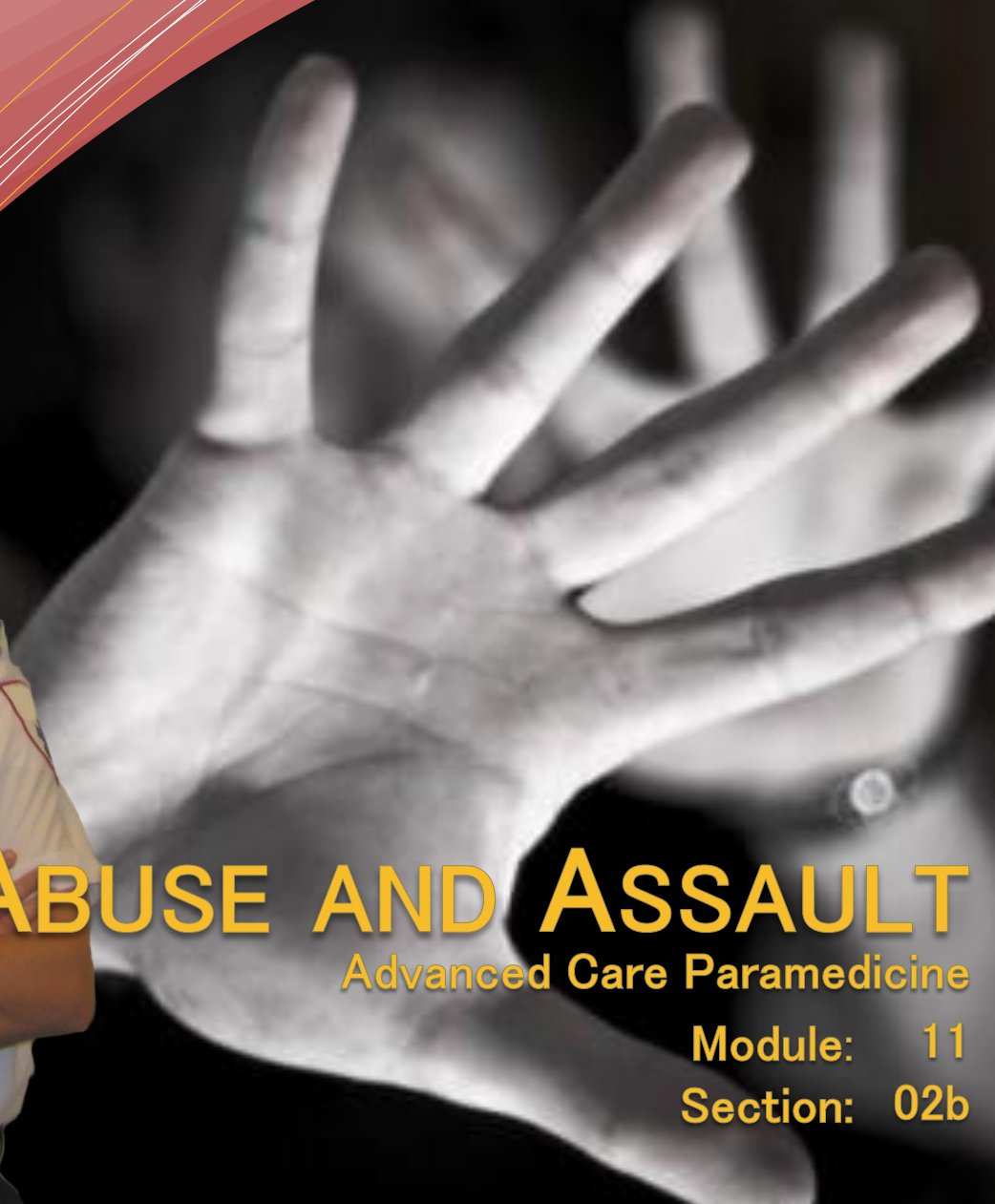


# ABUSE AND ASSAULT

Advanced Care Paramedicine

Module: 11

Section: 02b



- Intimate Partner Violence
- Elder abuse
- Sexual assault
- Child abuse

Abuse and Assault

# **INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE**

- Has serious physical, emotional, social and economic consequences for victims, their family and society, making this phenomenon a major public health issue.
- Included legal marriage, common law, cohabitation and dating relationships.
  - IPV refers to violence against current or former spouses or dating partners, whether or not the individuals live together or have children.
- No one is immune, affects people of all ages, wealth, culture, religions and education background.

- Violence between partners can be categorized as:
  - Spousal violence
  - Dating violence
  - Intimate partner violence
  - Non-intimate partner violence

- Four main types:
  - Physical
    - Intentional use of physical force
  - Psychological
    - Verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm mentally or emotionally
  - Sexual
    - Rape, unwanted sexual contact, non-contact unwanted sexual experiences
  - Economical
    - One partner has control over other partner's access to economic resources.

- Statistics:
  - 336,000 persons aged 15 – 89 were victims of police reported IPV in Canada (2013)
  - Accounts for approximately 25% of all police reported violent crimes
  - Most victims of IPV are female
    - Women accounted for nearly 80% of victims of police reported IPV
  - Individuals in their early 20's are at greatest risk of IPV
  - More than 3 in 4 victims of IPV are physically assaulted
  - Physical assaults are more often committed by a current partner while intimidation offences are more often related to a former partner

- Known Factors that Increase Risk of IPV
  - Men who have witnessed physical violence by fathers against mothers.
  - Alcohol is a prominent factor but not a casual factor.
  - Women are at greatest risk of severe violence.
  - Risk of being killed by a spouse or partner is 8x higher for women in common law relationships.
  - Children of IPA victims have a 30 - 40% chance of being abused.



- Fear of reprisal
- Fear of humiliation
- Denial
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of financial resources

- Occur in all demographic groups
- Wage earners having trouble paying bills or holding down job
- History of family violence
- Overly aggressive personalities
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- History of criminality

- Physical
  - 45% of women suffer from some sort of assault during pregnancy
- Verbal
  - Seek numbing effects of alcohol or drugs
- Emotional
  - Frequent depression, evasiveness, anxiety or suicidal behaviour

- Use direct questions.
- Avoid judgments.
- Listen carefully.
- Encourage the patient to regain control of their life.
- Offer knowledge of community resources.
- Advise the patient to take all necessary precautions before returning home.

- No person has the explicit duty to report a crime, as there is no obligation to do so within the Criminal Code of Canada.
  - This means that although a person may suspect that a crime has taken place, they are under no legal obligation to report it and cannot be convicted of an offense, as no such offense exists.
- When speaking of persons in professional positions such as those of doctors or teachers, they may be obligated under the policy of their work place or provincial legislation to report crimes that they believe have been committed.
- Because of their professional positions, these types of people have an ethical and also legal obligation under the laws of the province in which they work, or are bound by their work contracts; to report any suspicions or beliefs they have about the abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities.

Abuse and Assault

# **ELDER ABUSE**

- A single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring in any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.

Source: WHO

- 1 in 5 Canadians believe they know of a senior who might be experiencing some form of abuse.

Source: Stats Canada

- Neglect

- Lack of action by a person in a relationship of trust (i.e. family or care giver) that results in harm and/or distress on a older person.

- Indicators:

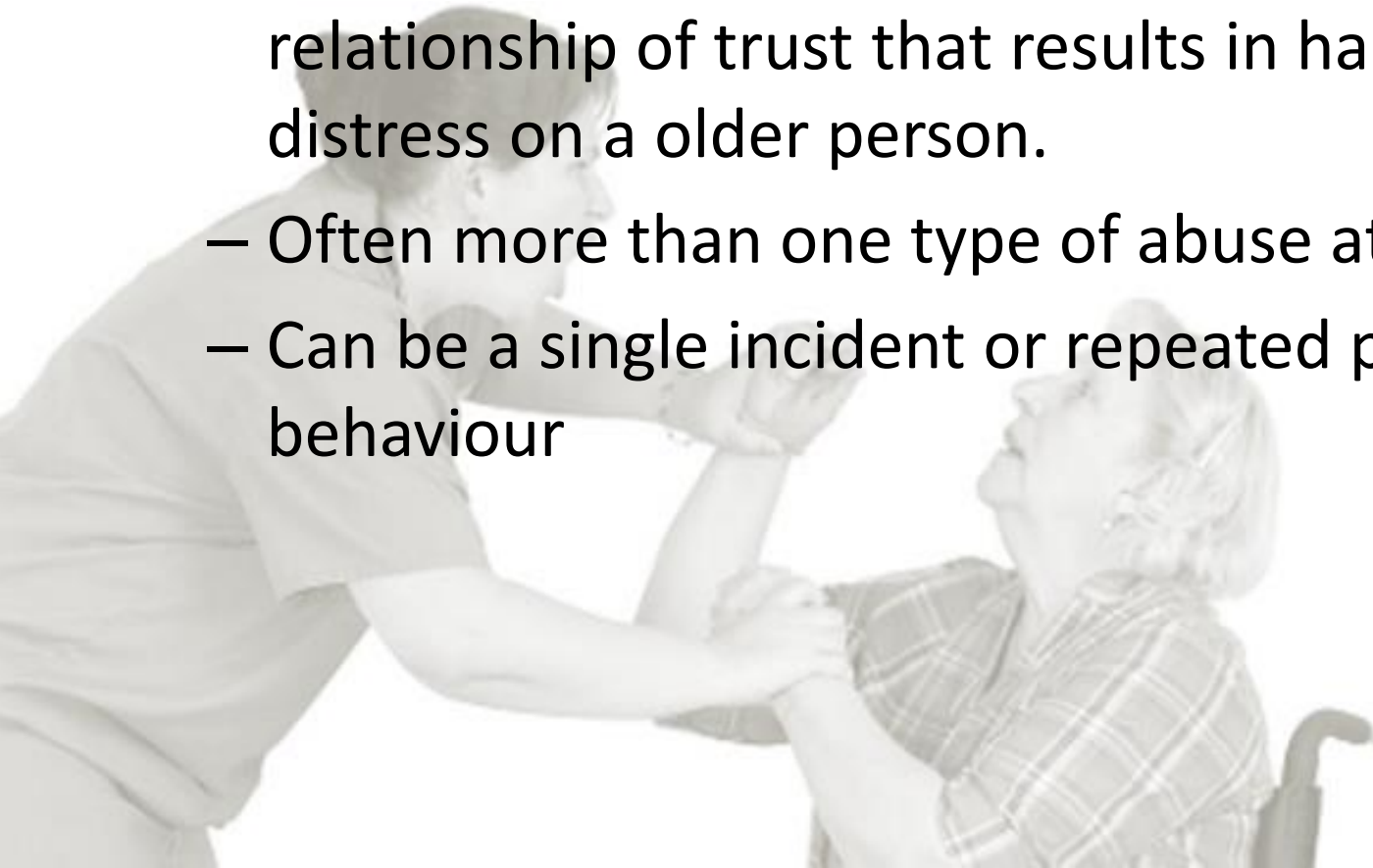
- Inadequate food in residence
- Clothing unwashed
- Living space is untidy / safety issues
- Medications are unorganized, missing
- Basic necessities are not met





- Abuse

- Similar to neglect, lack of action by a person in a relationship of trust that results in harm and/or distress on a older person.
- Often more than one type of abuse at same time
- Can be a single incident or repeated pattern of behaviour



## Associated Behaviors/Activities

- Physical Abuse

- Hitting
- Kicking
- Pushing
- Burning
- Over/under medicating
- Inappropriate chemical/physical restraint

- Psychological Abuse

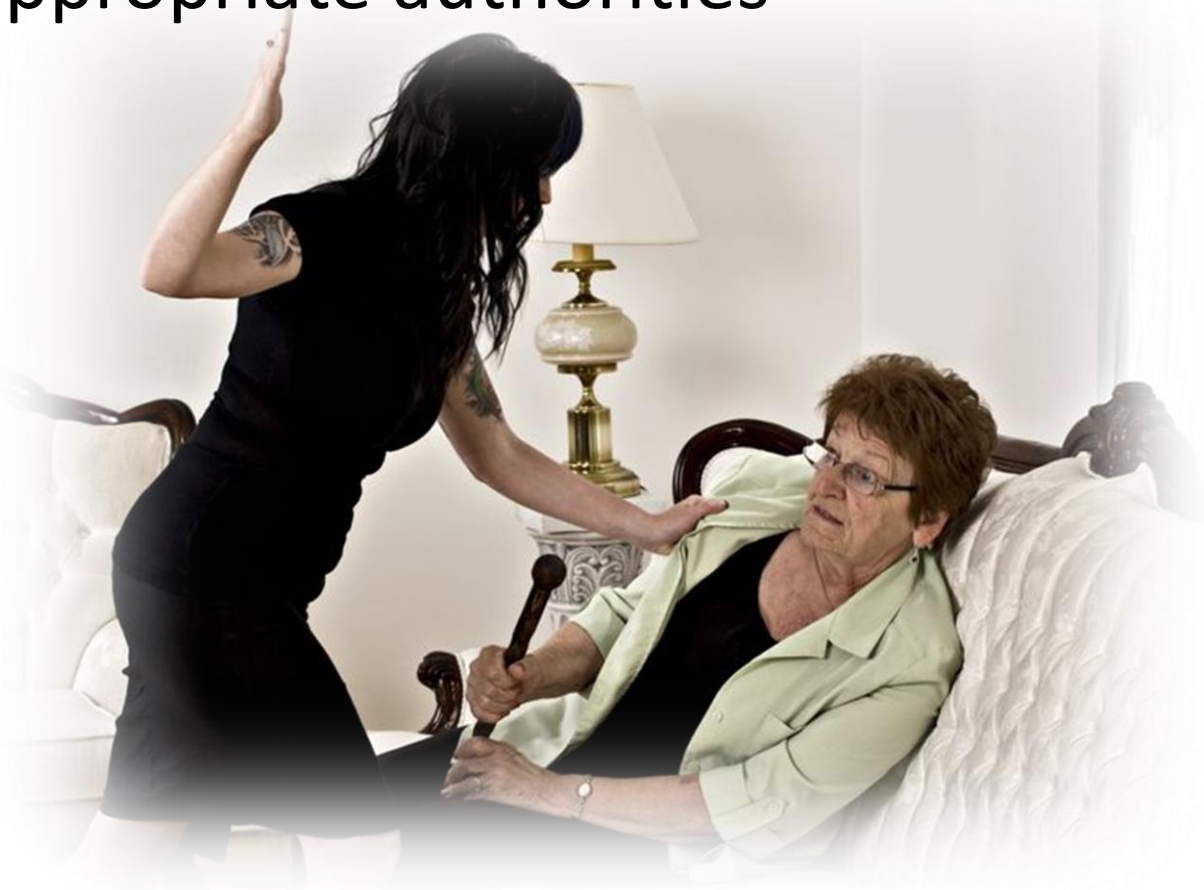
- Insults
- Threats
- Humiliation
- Intimidation
- Harassment
- Isolating friends/family
- Treating like a child

## Associated Behaviors/Activities

- Financial Abuse
  - Misusing or stealing money, property or assets
  - Cashing cheques without authorization
  - Forging signatures
  - Pressuring to change a will
  - Sign legal documents they don't understand
  - Staying at home without paying fair share of expenses.

- Domestic
  - Physical or emotional violence or neglect when elder is being cared for in a home-based setting
- Institutional
  - Physical or emotional violence or neglect when elder is being cared for by a person paid to provide care

- You are obligated to report suspected elder abuse to the appropriate authorities



- Caregiver stressed or over-burdened
- Physical or mental impairment
- Family history and a cycle of violence
- Personal problems of the caregiver

- The most common cases involve elderly women abused by their sons.
- Most frequently occurs among people who are dependent upon others for their care.
- In cases of neglect, abused elders most commonly live alone.

**Table 44-1** PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC ELDER ABUSE

<b>Group</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Adult children	32.5
Grandchildren	4.2
Spouse	14.4
Sibling	2.5
Other relatives	12.5
Friend/neighbor	7.5
All others	18.2
Unknown	2.0



# Signs and Symptoms of Elder Abuse & Neglect



- Fear, anxiety, depression or passiveness in relationship to a family member, friend or care provider.
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Dehydration, poor nutrition and/or poor hygiene present.
- Improper use of medication
- Confusion about new legal documents (will, mortgage)
- Sudden drop in cash flow/financial holdings
- Reluctance to speak about situation

- ***Adult Protection Act***, section 5 (1) states that every person who has information, whether or not it is confidential or privileged, indicating that an adult is in need of protection shall report that information to the Minister. If a person has this information but chooses not to report their suspicions, the Act states that they are guilty of an offense under the Act and can be punished on summary conviction and is liable to a fine of one thousand dollars or one year in prison, or both.

- ***Family Services Act***, section 35.1 (1), a professional person may disclose information to the Minister respecting a person whom the professional person has reason to believe is a neglected adult or an abused adult, including information that has been acquired through the discharge of the professional person's duties or within a professional relationship. Reporting this information is voluntary.

Abuse and Assault

# **SEXUAL ASSAULT**

- 460,000 estimated number of sexual assaults each year.
- 90% are unreported
- 90% of victims are female
- Women are 11x more likely to be assaulted than men.
- 25% of sexual assaults against women are committed by a stranger.

# Definition of Sexual Assault in Canada's Criminal Code

- Canada's Criminal Code has no specific "rape" provision. Instead, it defines assault and provides for a specific punishment for "sexual assault".
- In defining "assault", the Code includes physical contact and threats. The provision reads:
  - (1) A person commits an assault when
    - (a) without the consent of another person, he applies force intentionally to that other person, directly or indirectly;
    - (b) he attempts or threatens, by an act or a gesture, to apply force to another person, if he has, or causes that other person to believe on reasonable grounds that he has, present ability to effect his purpose; or
    - (c) while openly wearing or carrying a weapon or an imitation thereof, he accosts or impedes another person or begs.
  - (2) This section applies to all forms of assault, including sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, threats to a third party or causing bodily harm and aggravated sexual assault.

- Please note there are other specific sexual offences codified in the Criminal Code:
  - sexual exploitation
  - invitation for sexual touching
  - child pornography
  - Voyeurism
- An individual charged with sexual assault could be convicted of additional sexual crimes as well depending on the circumstances.

- Sexual assault
  - Unwanted oral, genital, or manual sexual contact.
- Rape
  - Penile penetration of the genitalia without the consent of the victim.



- Nightmares
- Restlessness
- Withdrawal tendencies
- Hostility
- Phobias related to the offender
- Regressive behavior, such as bed wetting
- Truancy
- Promiscuity, in older children and teens
- Drug and alcohol abuse



- Explain all of your actions to the patient and obtain consent for all treatment.
- Discourage washing, showering or douching prior to leaving scene.
- Always wear gloves to avoid interference with evidence.
- Stabilize injuries that need immediate treatment if and only if the victim agrees.
- If possible have client sit on linen on gurney. Fragments of evidence may fall onto linen.
- If clothing or jewelry is removed have patient place each in a paper bag to preserve potential evidence.

- Document patient's demeanor and statements related to the assault(e.g. time, date, place of attacks)
- Document all findings, procedures and assessments in meticulous detail.
- Offer transportation to medical facilities where medical/forensic exams are performed.
- Notify receiving facilities of estimate time of arrival.
- Notify receiving nurse or doctor of evidence collected (if any).

# Requirements to Report

- No person has the explicit duty to report a crime, as there is no obligation to do so within the Criminal Code of Canada. This means that although a person may suspect that a crime has taken place, they are under no legal obligation to report it and cannot be convicted of an offense, as no such offense exists.
- When speaking of persons in professional positions such as those of doctors or teachers, they may be obligated under the policy of their work place or provincial legislation to report crimes that they believe have been committed.
- Because of their professional positions, these types of people have an ethical and also legal obligation under the laws of the province in which they work, or are bound by their work contracts; to report any suspicions or beliefs they have about the abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities.

- Sexual assault is a crime
- Obligation to report
- Maintain crime scene
- Preserve chain of evidence

Abuse and Assault

# **CHILD ABUSE**

- The term "child abuse" refers to the violence, mistreatment or neglect that a child or adolescent may experience while in the care of someone they either trust or depend on, such as a parent, sibling, other relative, caregiver or guardian.
- Abuse may take place anywhere and may occur, for example, within the child's home or that of someone known to the child.

Child abuse can occur from infancy to age 18  
and can be inflicted by any number of  
caregivers.





- Comes in many forms, be alert and report any concerns

Physical

Sexual

Emotional

Neglect



- **Physical abuse** may consist of just one incident or it may happen repeatedly. It involves deliberately using force against a child in such a way that the child is either injured or is at risk of being injured.
  - Physical abuse includes beating, hitting, shaking, pushing, choking, biting, burning, kicking or assaulting a child with a weapon. It also includes holding a child under water, or any other dangerous or harmful use of force or restraint. Female genital mutilation is another form of physical abuse.

- **Sexual abuse and exploitation** involves using a child for sexual purposes.
- Includes:
  - Fondling
  - Inviting a child to touch or be touched sexually
  - Intercourse
  - Rape
  - Incest
  - Sodomy
  - Exhibitionism
  - Involving a child in prostitution or pornography

- **Neglect** is often chronic, and it usually involves repeated incidents. It involves failing to provide what a child needs for his or her physical, psychological or emotional development and well being.
- For example, neglect includes failing to provide a child with food, clothing, shelter, cleanliness, medical care or protection from harm.
- Emotional neglect includes failing to provide a child with love, safety, and a sense of worth.

- **Emotional abuse** involves harming a child's sense of self. It includes acts (or omissions) that result in, or place a child at risk of, serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional or mental health problems.
- For example: verbal threats, social isolation, intimidation, exploitation, or routinely making unreasonable demands, terrorizing a child, or exposing them to family violence.

- Abuser use many ways to gain access to a child, exert power and control over them, and prevent them from telling anyone about the abuse or seeking support.
- A child who is being abused is usually in a position of dependence on the person who is abusing them.
- Abuse is a misuse of power and a violation of trust. The abuse may happen once or it may occur in a repeated and escalating pattern over a period of months or years. The abuse may change form over time.

- 32% of Canadian adults have experienced child abuse.
- Physical abuse was the most common form of abuse (32%), followed by sexual abuse (10%) and exposure to intimate partner violence (8%).
- Physical abuse is more common in men (31%) than in women (21%).
- Sexual abuse is more common in women (14%) than in men (6%).

- Use or abuse of drugs and/or alcohol
- Immaturity and preoccupation with self
- Lack of obvious feeling for the child, rarely looking at or touching the child
- Seemingly unconcerned about the child's injury, treatment, or prognosis
- Openly critical of the child
- Little identification with the child's pain



- Crying, often hopelessly, or not crying at all, during treatment
- Avoiding the parents or showing little concern for their absence
- Unusually wary or fearful of physical contact



# Characteristics of Abused Children



- Apprehensive and/or constantly on the alert for danger
- Prone to sudden behavioral changes
- Absence of nearly all emotions
- Neediness, constantly requesting favors, food, or things

- Car seat burns
- Staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome
- Chickenpox
  - Cigarette burns
- Hematological disorders that cause easy bruising

- A child's behavior is one of the most important indicators of abuse.



- Soft tissue injuries
  - Most common consequence of abuse
- Burns and scalds
- Fractures
- Head injuries
- Shaken baby syndrome
- Abdominal injuries

Severe multiple bruises can lead to death



**Table 44-2**

**COLOR OF BRUISES AND THEIR AGE\***

<b>Age</b>	<b>Skin Appearance</b>
0 to 2 days	tender and swollen, red
0 to 5 days	blue, purple
5 to 7 days	green
7 to 10 days	yellow
10 or more days	brown
2 or more weeks	cleared

\*Adapted from Richardson, A.C., "Cutaneous Manifestations of Abuse" in Reece, R.M. *Child Abuse: Medical Diagnosis and Management*.

- Malnutrition
- Severe diaper rash
- Diarrhea or dehydration
- Hair loss
- Untreated medical conditions
- Inappropriate, dirty, or torn clothing
- Tired or listless attitudes
- Nearly constant demands for physical contact or attention



- Parents/caregivers simply ignore the child
- Reject, humiliate or criticize the child
- Isolated or deprived of human contact or nurturing
- Terrorized or bullied
- Encourage destructive or antisocial behaviour
- Unrealistic expectations of success

- ***Children and Family Services Act***, section 23 (1) states that every person who has information, whether or not it is confidential or privileged, indicating that a child is in need of protective services shall forthwith report that information to an agency. Section 24 (2) states that every person who performs professional or official duties with respect to a child, such as health care professionals, teachers, social workers, peace officers, members or operators of a child care facility or service, or youth recreational officers, who in the course of that person's professional or official duties, has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be suffering or may have suffered abuse shall forthwith report the suspicion and the information upon which it is based to an agency. No action lies against a person for reporting information pursuant to subsection (2), unless the reporting is done falsely and maliciously. If a person contravenes these sections of the Act, they are guilty of a summary offense and are liable to a fine of not more than two thousand dollars or a period of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both. Every person who falsely and maliciously reports information to an agency indicating that a child is or may be suffering or may have suffered abuse is guilty of an offense and upon summary conviction is liable to a fine of not more than two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to both

- ***Family Services Act***, section 30 (1) states that any person who has information causing him to suspect that a child has been abandoned, deserted, physically or emotionally neglected, physically or sexually ill-treated or otherwise abused shall inform the Minister of the situation without delay. This section applies notwithstanding that the person has acquired the information through the discharge of his duties or within a confidential relationship, but nothing in this subsection abrogates any privilege that may exist because of the relationship between a solicitor and the solicitor's client. A professional person who acquires information in the discharge of their professional responsibilities that causes the professional person to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, and who does not inform the appropriate agency or Minister is guilty of an offense. The consequences of committing such an offense are established by the Minister.

- Intimate Partner abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Elder abuse
- Child abuse