

Keeping Kids Safe

A community resource guide



The goal of the Keeping Kids Safe Initiative is to raise awareness of the warning signs of possible child abuse and neglect and to empower people across our community to act as advocates for the safety and well-being of children.

In eight out of ten reported cases of abuse, the offender is an authority figure whom the child knows and trusts. Child abuse occurs in all segments of our society and most often occurs in the family home. The risk of abuse is greater in homes where:

- Alcohol or drugs are abused
- Families are having serious economic, housing, or personal problems
- Families are isolated

Family members and teachers are frequently the first to observe the warning signs of abuse, but we all should be aware of the symptoms. This guide was designed to provide information that can empower neighbors, friends, and family members to take action when abuse is suspected. Often, members of the community surrounding the child can help parents and caregivers find the services they need to reduce family stress or promptly contact professionals who can intervene on the child's behalf.

This guide will help you recognize the signs of possible abuse, as well as other risk factors that impact infants and provide information about the resources available to support children and families. If families are under stress, the likelihood of abuse increases. Use this guide to help parents facing difficulties find the help they need to deal with the situations that are causing them stress. Our community has many supports to help families with the stressors that can lead to abuse.

Below is the information for the Onondaga County Helpline. You can always call with any questions, including what to do if your baby will not fall asleep.

HELPLINE: 24-Hour hotline: 315-435-8300

www.ongov.net/helpline

CHAT: <http://www.contactsyracuse.org/crisis-chat-faqs.shtml>

What is child abuse?

There are four basic types, but children are often the victims of more than one form of abuse:

- **PHYSICAL ABUSE** such as beatings, burns and bites
- **NEGLECT** such as the failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, or medical care
- **SEXUAL ABUSE** is **ANY** sexual contact with a child from inappropriate touching to incest or rape
- **EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT** in the form of constant criticism, insults, or withholding love

What are the warning signs of abuse?

Signs can be seen in the child, the parent, or in the interactions between them. **IMPORTANT TO NOTE:** none of these signs *prove* that child abuse is present in a family. Most of them can be seen in many children or parents at one time or another. But when these signs appear repeatedly or in combination, it is reasonable to consider the possibility of child abuse. A closer look may reveal further signs of abuse.

CHILD BEHAVIORS that could mean possible abuse

- Is fearful of a person or place, seems frightened of the parent or shrinks at the approach of adults.
- Has an unreasonable fear of a physical exam. Suddenly refuses to change for gym or participate in physical activities.
- Has unexplained difficulty walking or sitting.
- Shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance.
- Lacks needed medical or dental care, immunizations, or glasses. Has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parent's attention.
- Has learning problems not caused by a physical or psychological impairment.
- Is always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen.
- Shows extreme behavior: overly compliant, overachiever, or too responsible; overly demanding; extremely passive; or quick to anger / take aggression.
- Is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children, for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging, for example).
- Finds it hard to develop close relationships.
- States there is no one at home to provide care.
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs.
- Reacts in an unexpected way when asked if anyone has touched them.
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior.



- Begs or steals.
- Is consistently dirty or has body odor.
- Lacks appropriate clothing for the weather.
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age fourteen.
- Draws pictures showing sexual acts or that are scary or use a lot of black and red.
- Says that he/she has been injured or abused by an adult.
- Is delayed in physical or emotional development.
- Attempts suicide.
- Reports a lack of attachment to the parent.
- Comes to school early or stays late. Does not want to go home.
- Has unexplained absences from school.
- Runs away.
- Has unexplained injuries, bruises or other marks.

PARENT BEHAVIORS that could mean possible abuse:

- Shows little concern for the child, seems unconcerned or depressed.
- Is unresponsive to requests from the child's school.
- Is secretive and isolated.
- Frequently blames, belittles, or scolds the child.
- Overtly rejects the child.
- Denies there are problems or blames the child for problems in school or at home.
- Refuses to think about offers of help for the child's problems.
- Sees the child as bad, worthless, evil or burdensome.
- Demands perfection or a level of performance the child cannot achieve.
- Unreasonably expects the child to satisfy his/her physical or emotional needs.
- Offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no reason for the child's injury.
- Uses harsh physical discipline with the child or asks the classroom to be harsh when giving discipline.
- Has a history of being abused as a child.
- Behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manner.
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs.
- Is unduly protective of the child, severely limits the child's contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex.
- Describes marital problems involving family power struggles or sexual relations.



INTERACTION between parent and child that may point to abuse

- Rarely touch or look at each other.
- State that they do not like each other or view their relationship to be only negative.

What should I do if I suspect that a child is being abused?

Remember, the child's safety is most important and acting out of caring concern is the responsible thing to do. In many cases, it takes courage to take action. It is unfortunate but not unusual for those who suspect abuse to do nothing out of fear of angering the parent. There are many levels of action that can be taken, from questioning a parent to calling the police, but doing nothing can allow a situation to worsen and lead to increased levels of abuse.

WHEN TO CALL THE AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY

If a child reveals that he or she has been abused, it is vital to take the child seriously and act quickly. Unfortunately, many children who report abuse are not believed. When this happens the child may not risk telling again and could be victimized for many months or years. Call promptly and let trained professionals assess the situation and act appropriately.

Call your local police department (911) or a child abuse hotline:

Onondaga County Sheriff's Office/Abused Persons Unit 315-435-3092
Syracuse City Police Department 315-442-5200

New York State Child Abuse Hotline
Non-Mandated Reporter 1-800-342-3720
Mandated Reporter 1-800-635-1522

Onondaga County Child Abuse Hotline 315-422-9701
or
1 800-342-3720

Onondaga County Department of Social Services
Children's Division 315-435-2884

WHEN TO CALL A COMMUNITY CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SERVICE

If any of the described symptoms are seen, it is reasonable to become watchful for other warning signs. If symptoms are severe, if they persist, or if multiple warning signs are present, it is advisable to contact a local child-abuse prevention program that can guide you to take the proper action.

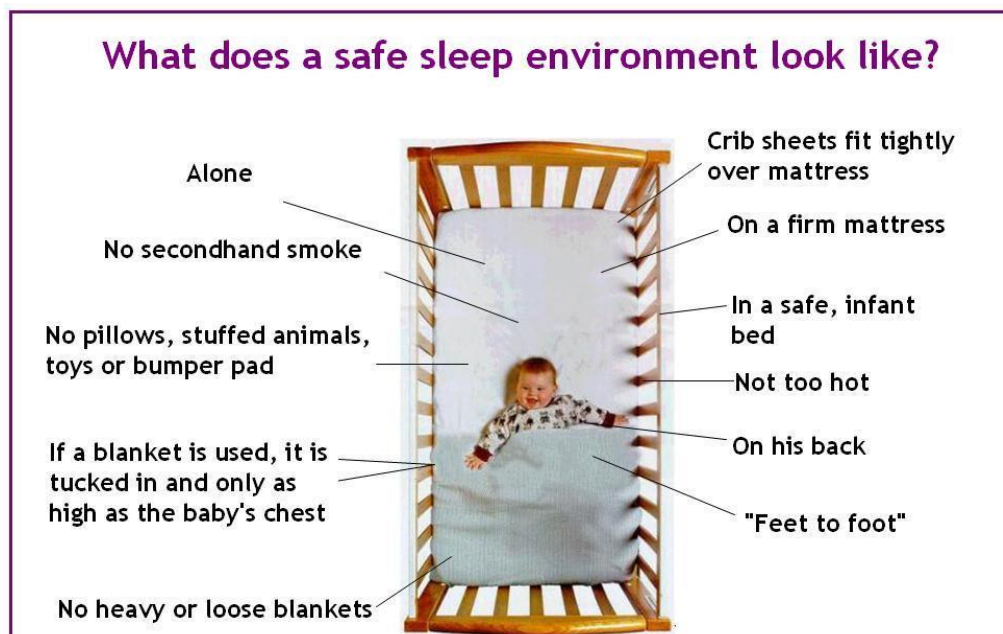
McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Site

315-701-2985

Safe Sleeping Habits

Another danger for infants is unsafe sleeping. Co-sleeping, or sleeping with your baby in the same bed, is dangerous, no matter what! Here are some tips to protect your baby:

- Place your baby on his or her back to sleep, for naps and at night, alone, and in a crib.
- Make sure the baby's crib has a firm mattress that fits snugly with no space between the mattress and the side of the crib, and a tight-fitting sheet.
- Use a wearable blanket or other type of sleeper to keep your baby warm. Make sure your baby has a safe place to sleep when visiting and traveling.
- Do not place pillows, bumpers, blankets, and stuffed toys in the baby's crib. ™
- Do not put your baby to sleep on an adult bed, sofa, waterbed, air mattress, or other soft surfaces - even for a nap. ™
- Do not let your baby get too warm. Keep the room temperature between 65-70 degrees
- Adult beds are not safe for sleeping babies! Adults or siblings in the bed can accidentally roll onto your baby while they sleep.
- Soft beddings, such as pillows, blankets, quilts and padded mattress tops, increase your baby's risk for SIDS and suffocation.
- Babies can get trapped between the mattress and the wall, the bed, or other pieces of furniture.



Keeping Kids Safe Resource Directory

Preventing Child Abuse

McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Site

315-701-2985
601 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Vera House

24-hour hotline 315-468-3260
Non-emergency 315-425-0818
TTY (during business hours) 315-484-7263
Administrative Office, 6181 Thompson Road,
Suite 100, Syracuse, NY 13206

The Salvation Army

315-479-1302
749 South Warren Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Emergency Assistance

Emergency Food & Support

Cathedral Emergency Services

315-424-1876
264 East Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County

315-424-1800
264 East Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Huntington Family Centers

315-476-3157
405 Gifford Street, Syracuse, NY 13204

Lafayette Outreach Inc.

315-677-5221
P.O. Box 169, 6136 Rt. 20 LaFayette, NY 13084

Onondaga County Department of Health, WIC

315-435-5238
375 West Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13202
315-652-3117
Bayberry Plaza
7608 Oswego Road, Liverpool, NY 13090

Onondaga County Department of Social Services

315-435-2700
John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 2nd Floor
421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

P.E.A.C.E., INC.

315-470-3300
217 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

The Salvation Army

315-475-1688
677 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Syracuse Northeast Community Center

315-472-6343
716 Hawley Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203

Emergency Meals

Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse

DAY: 315-701-3814
NIGHT: 315-701-3102
145 Gifford Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Samaritan Center

315-472-0650
310 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Emergency Shelter

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County

Women/Children 315-476-0617
Men 315-423-9137

The Salvation Army

Women/Children 315-479-1332
Men 315-423-9137

Vera House

24-hour hotline 315-468-3260
TTY (during business hours) 315-484-7263

Family Supports

Child Care Referrals

Child Care Solutions

315-446-1220 Ext. 303
6724 Thompson Road, Syracuse, NY 13211

Early Childhood Needs

ARC of Onondaga County

315-476-7441
700 South Wilber Avenue, Syracuse NY 13204

Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC)

315-443-4444 OR 800-962-5488
OR TTY 315-443-4355
Early Childhood Direction Center,
805 South Crouse Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13244

Enable

315-455-7591
TTY 315-455-1794
1603 Court Street, Syracuse, NY 13208

Onondaga County Department of Health, Maternal & Child Health: Healthy Families

315-435-2000
501 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202
www.onhealthyfamilies.com

Onondaga County Department of Social Services

315-435-5683
County Office Building 5th Floor, 600 South State
Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

P.E.A.C.E., INC.

315-470-3300
Administrative Office,
217 South Salina Street, 2nd Floor,
Syracuse, NY 13202

The Salvation Army

315-479-1193
Child Care, UPK and Headstart Collaboration
667 S. Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13202

Syracuse City School District

315-435-4499
725 Harrison Street, Syracuse, NY 13210

Health Services

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

315-422-4177
259 East Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Contact Community Services

Administrative Office 315-251-1400
Youth Emergency Services 315-251-0600

Franciscan Northside Ministries

315-423-9961
804 North Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13208

OnCare: Access to Services for Children and Youth (emotional and behavioral health)

315-463-1100
John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 10th Floor
421 Montgomery Street,
Syracuse, NY 13202

Onondaga County Department of Health, Family Planning

315-435-3295
Civic Center, Room 30
421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202
OR
E Taft Rd & S Bay Rd North Syracuse, NY 13212
OR
428 West Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13202
OR
Dr. William A. Harris Health Center, 301 Slocum
Avenue, Syracuse NY 13204

Onondaga County Department of Health, Maternal & Child Health

315-435-2000
501 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

1-866-600-6886
1120 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13210

SUNY Upstate Medical University Women's Health Services

315-464-2756
91 Presidential Plaza, Room 3073
Syracuse, NY 13202

SUNY Upstate Medical University, University Pediatric and Adolescent Center

315-464-4357
90 Presidential Plaza, Syracuse, NY 13202

SUNY Upstate Medical University Pediatric Emergency Department

315-464-5565
750 East Adams Street, 2nd Floor, East Wing,
Syracuse, NY 13210

Syracuse Community Health Center

315-476-7921
819 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

REACH CNY

315-424-0009
Toll Free for Consumers: 888-295-8662
1010 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13203

St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, Newborn Classes

315-448-5515
301 Prospect Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203

Job Information

JobsPlus

315-442-3242
677 S. Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13202

CNY Works

315-473-8250
443 N. Franklin Street
Syracuse, NY 13204

Parenting Information

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County

315-424-1880
1654 West Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13204

Children's Consortium

315-471-8331
2122 Erie Boulevard East, Syracuse, NY 13224

Exceptional Family Resources

315-478-1462
1820 Lemoyne Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13208

Huntington Family Centers

315-476-3157
405 Gifford Street
Syracuse, NY 13204

Onondaga County Department of Health, Maternal & Child Health: Healthy Families

315-435-2000
501 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202
www.onhealthyfamilies.com

Salvation Army

Preventive Services Partnership

315-479-3651
749 South Warren Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Housing and Parenting Supports: Transitional Apartments and Parenting Center (TAPC)

315-479-1330
667 S. Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13202

SUNY Upstate Medical University, University Pediatric and Adolescent Center

315-464-4357
90 Presidential Plaza, Syracuse, NY 13202

Neighborhood Centers

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County

315-424-1800
Administrative Office
1654 West Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13204

Bishop Foery Foundation

315-475-9378
100 Edmund Street, Syracuse, NY 13205

Hawley Youth Organization

315-472-6343
716 Hawley Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203

Northside CYO

315-474-7428
527 North Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13208

Parkside Commons

315-475-5027
1901 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13210

Vincent House

315-475-9844
500 Seymour Street, Syracuse, NY 13204

Faith Hope Community Center Inc

315-477-9944
1029 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, NY 13202

Franciscan Northside Ministries

315-423-9961
804 North Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13208

Huntington Family Centers

315-476-3157
405 Gifford Street, Syracuse, NY 13204

Mary Nelson's Community Center

315-422-2448
2849 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13205

P.E.A.C.E., INC.

315-470-3300
Administrative Office
217 South Salina Street, 2nd Floor
Syracuse, NY 13202

County East Family Resource Center

315-437-7071
 215 West Manlius Street, #2
 East Syracuse, NY 13057

County South Family Resource Center

315-696-8203
 12 Clinton Street, Tully, NY 13159

County West Family Resource Center

315-638-1051
 93 Syracuse Street #700, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Eastside Family Resource Center

315-470-3325
 202 South Beech Street, Syracuse, NY 13210

Southside Family Resource Center

315-470-3342
 136 Dr. Martin Luther King West, Syracuse, NY
 13205

Westside Family Resource Center

315-470-3352
 200 Wyoming Street, Syracuse, NY 13204

Salvation Army, Barnabas Center

315-475-9744
 1941 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13205

Spanish Action League

315-475-6153
 700 Oswego Street, Syracuse, NY 13204

**Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility
(Southwest Community Center)**

315-474-6823
 401 South Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13204

Syracuse Northeast Community Center

315-472-6343
 716 Hawley Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203

The Refugee Assistance Program (SCSD)

315-435-4135
 1025 Erie Boulevard West, Syracuse, NY 13204

Keeping Kids Safe Coordination Team

AFL-CIO Community Services

ARISE

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County

Child Care Solutions

Child Fatality Review Team

Determination Center of CNY, Inc.

E.P.I.C.

McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Site

Mothers Against Gun Violence

Onondaga County Department of Social Services

Onondaga County Health Department

Onondaga County Maternal and

Child Health: Healthy Families

Onondaga County Office of the Executive

Onondaga County Probation Department

Planned Parenthood

REACH CNY

Salvation Army

SUNY Upstate Medical University Pediatrics

Syracuse City School District

Syracuse University

United Way of Central New York

United Way's Success By 6

Vera House