



Neglect

Activity 5: Indicators of abuse / harm / neglect

Category of Abuse: Neglect

Neglect means a failure to meet a person's basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of the person's well-being (for example, an impairment of the person's health or, in the case of a child, an impairment of the child's development). Includes the failure to access medical care or services, negligence in the face of risk-taking, failure to give prescribed medication, failure to assist in personal hygiene or the provision of food, shelter, clothing; emotional neglect.

INDICATORS

Physical

- lack of personal care or appropriate supervision
- unacceptable management of continence
- excessive dirt or health hazards in the living environment
- rashes, sores, lice
- misuse of medication
- failure to obtain / facilitate use of prosthetics, dentures, glasses, hearing aids, or other required equipment
- home environment not conducive to basic health needs
- inadequate heating, lighting, or bedding
- poor furnishings in the person's room compared to the rest of the house
- lack of appropriate physical contact, warmth, sensitivity or empathy
- lack of help to move around
- careless treatment of possessions, clothing or pets by carers
- injury which has not been properly cared for
- poor skin condition, untreated pressure sores, ulcers, bedsores
- being left in wet or soiled clothing or bedding
- hypothermia, dehydration, malnutrition or significant weight loss
- health deterioration or untreated medical condition
- lack of toys or personal possessions for a child
- excessive repeated prescriptions, or under / over use of medication

Emotional

- insomnia
- fearfulness
- low self esteem
- loneliness

Behavioural

- withdrawn and disengaged
- dishevelled appearance
- drowsiness
- constant hunger, stealing food, eating waste food

Social

- unsuitable clothing for weather conditions
- isolation, no peer / friendship groups
- unwilling to allow visitors into home
- no engagement in social / cultural activities

WHERE MIGHT THIS HAPPEN?

- person's own home
- residential care home
- nursing home
- hospital
- daycare
- nursery
- childminders
- sheltered accommodation

WHO MIGHT BE INVOLVED OR CAUSING THIS?

- domiciliary carer
- residential carer
- relative / parent / child / spouse / other carer
- support worker
- professional