



Sexual

Activity 5: Indicators of abuse / harm / neglect

Category of Abuse: Sexual Abuse

- rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable adult has not or could not consent and / or was pressured into consenting
- a child under the age of 13 years **cannot** consent to sexual activity

INDICATORS

Physical

- difficulty in walking or sitting
- torn or bloody underclothing
- semen staining on clothing
- pain, discomfort or itching in genital area
- unexplained genital, vaginal, anal or oral injury
- bilateral bruising to hips, buttocks or inner thighs
- restraint marks on wrists, legs or neck
- recurring urinary tract infections
- tearing of penile fraenum or tissue
- love bites
- pregnancy

Emotional

- distress
- tearfulness
- confusion
- fearfulness
- low self esteem
- feeling of guilt, shame
- feelings of worthlessness or being damaged
- withdrawal
- anger

Behavioural

- insomnia
- flinches at physical contact
- over-affectionate displays
- overt sexual behaviour / language / play by the person
- signs of incestuous relationships
- bedwetting, aggressiveness, self-injury or fire setting
- disturbed sleep pattern
- fear of medical examinations, or carer blocks examination

- significant weight loss or gain
- alleged abuser encourages age-inappropriate dress or make-up
- attempts to appear unattractive; poor hygiene; odd clothing
- running away or not wanting to go home

Social

- isolation, no peer / friendship groups or social / cultural activities
- social activities and contacts controlled by the alleged abuser
- unwilling to allow visitors into home
- fearfulness or silence around a particular person or place
- unexplained gifts, money, jewellery, perfume
- unwillingness to talk about where or with whom they go
- secretive, anxious or unusual on-line activity

WHERE MIGHT THIS HAPPEN?

- person's own home
- residential care home
- nursing home
- hospital
- school/college
- daycare
- nursery
- childminders
- sheltered accommodation
- relative's home
- public place

WHO MIGHT BE INVOLVED OR CAUSING THIS?

- domiciliary carer
- residential carer
- relative / parent / child / spouse / other carer
- support worker
- professional
- family friend / neighbour
- stranger