



DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE

NAD Youth Ministries Safety Resources

Child abuse - The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), (42 U.S.C.A. §5106g), as amended and reauthorized by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, defines child abuse and neglect as, at minimum:

“Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.”

It constitutes any inappropriate physical contact, sexual contact, or communication by any adult through use of their authority over a child. Abuse can also occur between two children. Even if a child out of ignorance, innocence or fear does not resist, it is still abuse.

Physical abuse is any injury to a child which has been caused by other than accidental means, including any injury which appears to be at variance with the explanation of the injury.

Mental/Emotional abuse is any verbal communication that harms a child, such as harsh criticism, degrading, belittling, threats, disparaging name-calling, unnecessary shouting, demeaning terminology, unrealistic demands for perfection, violent or obscene language, etc.

Sexual abuse violates a child’s sexual privacy whether by fondling, visually or by verbal remarks. It includes fondling of any intimate parts of the child’s body, oral, genital and/or anal penetration by any foreign object, oral, genital or anal sexual intercourse, telling a child to masturbate, exhibiting or showing any genital parts to a child, allowing a child to witness or watch any forms of sexual activity, showing any pornographic materials, etc.

For more information visit <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/>

Child Protection: www.NADYouthSafety.org