

# Kids Need all Adults to Report Abuse During COVID-19 Crisis

A resource for all adults describing signs of child abuse and where to report.

## Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect is Everyone's Responsibility.

### \* Kids are Counting on All Adults to Protect Them

**This means YOU!** This resource is for any adult who interacts with a child. It outlines signs of abuse and neglect and where to report.

**In times of crisis and economic instability, child abuse and neglect rates increase. However, reports of child abuse and neglect in Lassen County have declined dramatically.**

Children are not going to school, activities, places of worship and other public places where adults look out for their safety and well-being.

### \* Trust your Gut

If something does not look safe, sound safe or feel safe – report.

### \* Making a Report is Asking for Help and Services

When you report, you are asking for a professional to help a child and their family. You do not need proof. You are not making an accusation.

### \* You May Be the Only Person to Act

If you reasonably suspect a child is unsafe - report. Anonymous reports are accepted from anyone. Your identity is held confidential and will not be revealed.

### \* Some Signs a Child is Not Safe:

#### Physical Abuse

- Child appears frightened of the caregiver.
- Child has burns, bites, broken bones, bruising, black eyes or complaints of pain.
- Caregiver offers no explanation of a child's injury, the parent "blames" the child's behavior or personality for the injury. Ask yourself "Does the story match the injury?"

#### Sexual Abuse

- Child attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in their environment.
- Demonstrates unusual sexual knowledge or behavior for their age.
- Difficulty walking or sitting.
- Witnessing an adult inappropriately touching a child, watching pornography with a child or saying sexual things to a child.

#### Emotional Abuse

- Child shows extremes in behavior: overly aggressive or compliant.
- Appears emotionally unattached to caregiver and others.
- Caregiver constantly blames, belittles or berates the child and refuses to help the child when needed.

#### Neglect

- Child begs or steals food, has severe poor hygiene or states that no one at home provides care.
- Witnessing a child using alcohol or other drugs.
- Highly stressful family situations and/or adults in home abusing alcohol or other drugs.

### Where To Report:

**Child and Family Services (CFS)**

**(530) 251-8277, Regular Business Hours**

**(530) 260-8131, After Hours**

**If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.**

