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| **Physical Abuse** | | | |
| **Description** | **Examples of actions that would constitute physical abuse** | Examples of category specific signs / indicators | Examples of factors that could cause confusion |
| A child is being abused in such a way as to cause physical harm. | * Physical assaults that do not involve the use of a weapon or other implement; kicking, , punching, slapping, pushing, pinching, scratching or pulling hair spitting etc. * Use of an implement or weapon or throwing things; household items not normally considered to be weapons, DIY tools, knives or other kitchen implements etc. * Burning or scalding * Choking, strangling * Poisoning including over medicating, inappropriate use of medicine, alcohol etc. (for example to “help the child to sleep”) * Withholding or withdrawing medical treatments or attention * Starvation, withholding drinks etc. so as to cause malnutrition or dehydration * Force feeding, causing excessive obesity through overfeeding / inappropriate diet * Inappropriate or rough handling, including when performing personal care or administering first aid (eg removing a plaster forcefully so as to cause tearing of the skin) * The use of excessive force or inappropriate restraint * Bullying that involves physical harm * Physical abuse can happen antenatally through substance misuse etc. | * Bruising * Burns * Cuts / lacerations * Fractures or breaks * Black eye * Unexplained marks * Untreated medical need (e.g. skin conditions nappy rash etc.) * Stench of urine / faeces * Drowsiness / excessive sleep * Loss of weight * Hunger / thirst * Wearing extra layers of clothing * Aggressive or violent behaviours * Withdrawn, anxious, flinching in specific situations or with specific people | * Mongolian Blue Spot * Brittle bones * Leukaemia * Other medical conditions   NB. It is not illegal for a parent to smack a child so long as the smack does not leave a lasting mark (e.g. not lasting more than 5 minutes or so). If the smack causes bruising it is excessive and is abuse and smacking in inappropriate places (e.g. head) is abuse.  NB. The considered decision not to have a child vaccinated is not abuse but failing to attend appointments may indicate neglect. |

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| **Emotional or psychological abuse** | | | |
| **Description** | **Examples of actions that would constitute emotional or psychological abuse** | **Examples of category specific signs / indicators** | **Examples of factors that could cause confusion** |
| The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child resulting in ongoing severe adverse effects on emotional development. | * Making a child feel afraid, intimidated anxious or ridiculed including domineering behaviour * Threatening the child, someone else, threatening to harm pets etc. * Verbal abuse; shouting, name calling, swearing, use of inappropriate nicknames or descriptions etc. * Causing a sense of worthlessness or inadequacy * Making a child feel unloved or only conditionally loved (eg making a child feel that they are only valued or loved insofar as they meet the needs or expectations of someone else) * Suppressing or denying the opportunity for the child to express their views, intentionally silencing them, ridiculing them for their views or beliefs or for the way they communicate * Expectations that are age or developmentally inappropriate are imposed on the child (over expectation or overprotectiveness that denies or impedes the child’s development) * Preventing appropriate social contact and interaction, isolation, ignoring or excluding, abandonment and imprisonment * Bullying; including cyber bullying and harassment * Emotional blackmail * Making the child feel that they are in danger * Exploiting or corrupting a child * Denying access to services or support * Denial of human rights | * Excessive fear or anxiety * Flinching in the presence of a particular person or in particular circumstances * Unusual patterns of crying / weeping / sobbing, etc. * Low self-esteem * Insomnia, sleep deprivation or the need for excessive sleep * Change in appetite * Unusual or unexplained weight loss or gain * Paranoia * Mood swings, changes in mood or behaviour * Withdrawal and inability or discomfort with social situations and interaction | * Death or illness in the family * Family relationship breakdown * Family stress or specific family issues * Medical or psychological conditions * Death of a pet |

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| **Neglect** | | | |
| **Description** | **Examples of actions that would constitute neglect** | **Examples of category specific signs / indicators** | **Examples of factors that could cause confusion** |
| Persistent failure to meet the basic physical and/or psychological needs of the child to the extent that it is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development. | * Can occur antenatally through such things as maternal substance misuse * Failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter * Failure to protect a child from physical or emotional danger * Abandonment, being left “home alone”, inadequate supervision (including inappropriate or inadequate care givers) * Failure to provide adequate medical care (attending appointments, administering medications and / or treatments) * Unresponsiveness to a child’s basic emotional, psychological or developmental needs | * Significant needs persistently unmet * Poor physical care * Lack of food / drink inappropriate or inadequate diet * Failure to access medical care or to follow medical advice / instruction * Inappropriate clothing * Poor hygiene * Lack or supervision * Isolation, ignoring, exclusion * Lack of heating / lighting * Leaving a child to lie in faeces / urine * Not aiding communication or providing adequate stimulation * Failure to meet cultural, religious or social needs * Neglecting pets | * Medical conditions * Poverty * Family stresses * Parental disabilities / young carers |

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| **Sexual abuse** | | | |
| **Description** | **Examples of actions that would constitute sexual abuse** | **Examples of category specific signs / indicators** | **Examples of factors that could cause confusion** |
| Forcing, enticing or coercing a child into engaging in sexual activity or exposing a child to sexual materials or activity, whether or not the child is aware or the significance of what is happening. | * Forcing, coercing or enticing a child into sexual activity including grooming a child in preparation for abuse * Physical sexual contact; rape (vaginally or anally), oral sex, penetration with an object, inappropriate touching / rubbing, fondling (whether inside or outside of the clothing) , kissing, masturbation etc. * Non-contact activities; the viewing or production of sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, grooming a child in preparation for abuse * Sexualised language or conversation * Sexual harassment * Indecent exposure * Voyeurism * Exploitation, causing someone to enter into prostitution * Satanic or ritual abuse * Bestiality | * Genital or urinary irritation or bruising in the genital area * Frequent infections, pain or itching in the genital area * Bleeding from the anus or vagina * Sexually transmitted infections * Stains on underwear or nightwear * Wetting / soiling * Bruising in inner thighs or upper arms * Difficulty in walking and or sitting * Wearing extra clothing * Depression * Role play * Sexualised language or behaviour that is inappropriate for age or developmental stage * Nightmares / flashbacks * Agitation, upset or withdrawal from any physical contact | * Medical conditions or infections * Excessive masturbation * Age / developmentally appropriate inquisitiveness, exploration and play |