



Child Advocacy Center
of Sedgwick County

RECOGNIZE | RESPOND | REPORT

Physical Abuse

If a child is in imminent danger, please call 911, and make a report with the Kansas Protection Report Center at 1-800-922-5330

Recognize:

- Injuries to the head, face, ears, neck, upper arms, back, thighs, or buttocks, especially in very young children who are not yet walking or running.
- Any injury to an infant who is not yet independently mobile, especially those under the age of 9 months.
- Ear bruising, patterned welts, bruises, or burns
- Numerous injuries, especially in multiple areas of the body or locations listed above.
- Conflicting injury explanations by the child and caregiver, the child is accused of being “clumsy”, or caregiver’s explanation does not align with the age or developmental ability of the child.
- Excessive absences from school or a child who wears excessive clothes to hide injuries.
- Inadequately explained pain with movement, sitting, or walking that may be the result of an unidentified abuse injury.

How NOT to respond:

- Do not lose your composure.
- Children rarely lie about being abused, don’t try to determine if a disclosure is true.
- Do not confront the offender. This could be dangerous, and could interfere with the investigation.
- Do not use body language that could display anger or disappointment.
- Are you telling me the truth?
- Why did you let that happen?
- Why didn't you stop him/her?
- You must feel awful about that.
- He/She didn't mean to do that, let me know if it happens again.

How to Respond:

- Write down everything the child told you.
- Save all evidence of contact: emails, messages, photos etc
- I believe you.
- It's not your fault.
- I don't know what happens next, but I will help you.
- I'm glad you told me.
- I'm upset, but not at you.

Report:

- Call 911 and make a report to the Kansas Protection Report Center 1 -800-922-5330