



NIXA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

301 South Nicholas Rd ◇ Nixa, MO 65714
Emergency 911 ◇ Business (417) 725-4025 ◇ Fax (417) 725-2393

PROTECTIVE SERVICES KIT

Missouri law mandates reporting of abuse or neglect of children, senior adults and dependent adults of all ages when any member of these groups is endangered by a caretaker. Abuse is generally defined as physical harm; financial exploitation, or general neglect.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF to identify possible abuse:

1. Are bruises extensive – do they cover a large area of the body?
2. Are there bruises of different ages – did various injuries occur at different times?
3. Are there patterns caused by a particular instrument (e.g. Belt, buckle, wire, coat hanger)?
4. Are injuries/burns consistent with the explanation offered?
5. Are injuries consistent with the person's age and developmental capacity?
6. Are there patterns of the injuries consistent with the abuse?
7. Are the patterns of burns consistent with forced immersion in hot liquid?
8. Are the patterns consistent with a splattering by hot liquids?

INDICATORS OF ABUSE/NEGLECT

Sexual Abuse:

1. Difficulty in walking or sitting
2. Pain or itching around genitals
3. Stomach aches
4. Bed wetting
5. Sleep problems
6. Depression or withdrawn behavior
7. Poor peer relationships
8. Sudden onset of behavior problems
9. Unusual knowledge of/or interest in sex

Physical Neglect:

1. Underfed or constantly hungry
2. Constantly unclean
3. Lack of supervision
4. Unattended medical/dental needs
5. Begging or stealing food
6. Drug or alcohol problems
7. With children, poor school attendance
8. Nails need clipping
9. Bed sores

Emotional/Psychological Abuse:

1. Speech problems
2. Dramatic emotional swings, agitation
3. In children, slow physical, mental or emotional growth
4. Loss of appetite
5. Long term depression, no eye contact, movement or expressions
6. Habits of sucking, biting or rocking
7. Sleep disorders
8. Antisocial or destructive behavior
9. Suicide attempts/homicide
10. Unjustified fear

(Sources: "Guidelines for the Hospital and Clinic: Management of Child Abuse and Neglect" by US Department of Health, Education and Welfare; St. John's Regional Health Center Department of Medical Social Services; St. John's: Behavioral Health Care)

Specific Actions to take:

- Notify Battalion Chief of EMS, or Fire Chief
- Use either the suspected Child Abuse or Dependent/Adult Abuse worksheet to organize and document the information to be reported.

What happens when a report is made?

When the Missouri Department of Social Services receives a report, it conducts an investigation to determine the seriousness of the harm to the victim. An investigation can start within 24 hours. The reporter is contacted within forty-eight hours for additional information, medical records, etc. If the Department of Family Services finds that protective or preventive services are necessary, it evaluates the needs of the person and assists in providing casework, counseling and in locating alternative safe living arrangements as needed.

Nixa Fire Protection District
Suspected CHILD Abuse Report Worksheet:
Missouri HOTLINE NUMBER: 1-800-392-3738

Reporting party name/occupation: _____

Date of Report: _____

<u>Victims</u> Name: _____	Birth date _____	Sex _____	Race _____
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Household address: _____

Phone: _____

Incident: Date/time _____

Location/Address: _____ Phone: _____

<u>Siblings</u> Name: _____	Birth date _____	Sex _____	Race _____
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<u>Parents/substitutes</u> Name: _____	Birth date _____	Sex _____	Race _____
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Alleged Perpetrator Name: _____ Age _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

Relationship to victim: _____

Significant Others:

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Type of abuse: (circle one) Physical Sexual Neglect

Nature and extent of injuries: _____

Actions taken: _____

Any known history of similar, previous incidents for this child or siblings: _____

Child Abuse and Neglect

DEFINITIONS

CHILD: Any person, regardless of physical or mental condition, under the age of 18.

ABUSE: Any physical injury, sexual abuse or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child's care, custody and control except that discipline including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner, shall not be construed to be abuse.

SEXUAL ABUSE: Any sexual activity between a child 17 years of age and younger and an adult. This includes exhibitionism, lewd and threatening talk, fondling and oral, anal or vaginal intercourse. Rape occurs when the child is forced into sexual activity. Incest is sexual activity between family members' other than marital partners. Molestation is sexual activity between an adult and child outside the family.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE: Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of a child, a situation where any person willfully causes or permits any child to suffer or inflicts unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering.

NEGLECT: Failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody and control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition or medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for the child's well-being. This care may include inadequate food, shelter, clothing, protection, supervision, and medical or dental care.

PROBABLE CAUSE or REASONALBE CAUSE: Available facts when viewed in the light of surrounding circumstances which would cause a reasonable person to believe a child was abused or neglected.

Nixa Fire Protection District
Suspected Dependent ADULT/ELDER Abuse Report Worksheet:

Missouri HOTLINE NUMBER: 1-800-392-0210

Reporting party name/occupation: _____

Date of Report: _____

Victim Name: _____ Birth date _____ Sex _____ Race _____

Victim's Social Security Number: _____

Current address: _____

Phone: _____

Incident: Date/time _____

Location/Address: _____ Phone: _____

Type of abuse: (circle one) Physical Neglect

Nature and extent of injuries: _____

Actions taken: _____

Family or other persons responsible for victim:

Name: _____ role _____ relationship _____ Birth date _____ Sex _____ Race _____

Address: _____

Name: _____ role _____ relationship _____ Birth date _____ Sex _____ Race _____

Address: _____

Physician Name: _____

_____ Phone _____

Address _____

Alleged Perpetrator(s):

Name: _____ role _____ relationship _____ Birth date _____ Sex _____ Race _____

Address: _____

Name: _____ role _____ relationship _____ Birth date _____ Sex _____ Race _____

Address: _____

Dependent Adult/Elder Abuse and Neglect

DEFINITIONS

ELIGIBLE ADULT: Persons who are sixty years of age or older or an adult with a handicap between the ages of 18 and 59 who is unable to protect his own interests or adequately perform or obtain services which are necessary to meet his essential human needs.

CARETAKER: Any person who has the care, custody or control of an elder or a dependent adult, or is in a position of trust with that person.

ABUSE: The infliction of physical, sexual or emotional injury or harm, including financial exploitation by any person, firm or corporation.

NEGLECT: Failure to provide services to an eligible adult by any person, firm, or corporation with a legal or contractual duty to do so, when such failure presents either an imminent danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the client OR – substantial probability that death or serious physical harm will result.

FINANCIAL ABUSE: A situation in which a caretaker takes, hides, or appropriates that funds or property of an elder or dependent adult for a use or purpose that is not in the due and lawful execution of his or her trust.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES: Services provided by the state or other governmental or private organizations or individuals which are necessary for the eligible adult to meet his essential human needs.

LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM: Services of a Volunteer who helps residents by empowering them with knowledge and advocating on their behalf, both individually and as a group to ensure that their rights are protected. Can be accessed in Missouri by calling 1-800-309-3282