



Kalamazoo CAN  
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[www.KalamazooCAN.com](http://www.KalamazooCAN.com)

## Key Terms and Concepts

*What is child abuse? What is child neglect?* To answer these important questions, it's helpful to start with some basic concepts and definitions:

**Physical Abuse** – A non-accidental injury to a child. Physical abuse may include, but is not limited to, burning, beating, kicking and punching. There *could* be physical evidence of bruises, burns, broken bones or other unexplained injuries.

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**Sexual Abuse** – Any intentional touching or close contact that can be reasonably construed as being for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification, or any other improper purpose. It includes accosting, soliciting, or enticing a child to commit sexual acts.

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**Child Maltreatment** – The treatment of a child that involves cruelty or suffering that a reasonable person would recognize as excessive. It may include humiliation, severe punishment and other actions.

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**Mental Injury Abuse** – A pattern of physical or verbal acts by a parent or caregiver that results in psychological or emotional injury to a child. Examples of such injury could include depression, anxiety, lack of attachment, psychosis, fear of abandonment, fear of impending death, etc. Mental injury can also be caused by the omission of affection and other basic emotions.

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**Child Neglect** – Includes *physical neglect* (not providing reasonable food, clothing and shelter); *failure to protect* (knowingly allowing another person to abuse or neglect a child); *improper supervision* (placing the child in danger); *abandonment* (leaving a child without an agreement for the child's safety); and *medical neglect* (harm from failure to seek or obtain medical care).

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*To learn how you can help prevent child abuse and neglect, visit us online at [www.KalamazooCAN.com](http://www.KalamazooCAN.com). If you find this helpful, please share a copy with your friends, neighbors and co-workers. Thank you!*