



Kalamazoo CAN
(269) 552-4430
www.KalamazooCAN.com

What is Child Neglect?

Child Neglect includes the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision or medical care for a child. It also includes placing a child's health or welfare at unreasonable risk, or failure to eliminate the risk when that person is able to do so.

Simply put, children depend on their parents or guardians to keep them safe and to meet their essential needs. Failure to do so is child neglect, which is a crime in the State of Michigan.

Key Physical Indicators of Child Neglect:

- Consistent hunger
- Poor hygiene
- Inappropriate dress
- Consistent lack of supervision, especially in dangerous activities or for long periods
- Unattended physical problems or medical needs
- Abandonment

Key Behavioral Indicators of Child Neglect:

- Begging, stealing food
- Extended stays at school (frequent early arrival and late departure)
- Consistent fatigue, listlessness or falling asleep in class
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Delinquency (e.g., theft or other forms of stealing)
- Says there is no parent, guardian or caretaker for them at home
- Unwilling to change for gym or participate in physical education class

To learn more about the warning signs of child abuse and neglect, visit the "Resources" section of our website at www.KalamazooCAN.com. Or call our office at (269) 552-4430.

Important: If you suspect a case of child abuse or neglect, please call Child Protective Services immediately at (269) 337-5046. Don't wait. Make this confidential call now.