

## Child Abuse

**Federal and South Carolina State Law, and DoD Policy, requires all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect be reported to law enforcement.**

**Child abuse falls into one of four categories:**

- **Neglect** - Failure to provide for a child's basic physical, educational, or emotional needs or lack of appropriate supervision. Child neglect is the most common type of child maltreatment in the U.S.
- **Physical abuse** - The inflicting of physical harm upon a child. It includes, but not limited to punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, grabbing, cutting off air supply, hitting, poking, pulling hair, biting, hitting with objects, holding under water, pinching, scratching, or burning.
- **Sexual abuse** - Sexual or sexually-related activity toward or involving a child committed by a person responsible for the care of a child such as a baby-sitter, a parent, or a daycare provider. It also includes commercial or other exploitation of a child refers to use of the child in work or other activities for the benefit of others.
- **Emotional abuse** - Acts or the failures to act by parents or caretakers that have a negative effect on the child's behavioral, cognitive, emotional, or mental well-being. It includes but not limited to constant criticism, threats, rejection, or withholding love as well as spousal abuse, substance abuse in presence of the child.

To report suspected child abuse:

Call **911** or contact **PMO** at  
228-3444 (MCRD PI)  
228-6710 (MCAS)

**Family Advocacy Program (FAP)**  
228-2044 (MCRD PI)  
228-6126 (MCAS)

**DSS Child Protective Services**  
255-6143

**National Child Abuse Hotline**  
1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453) <http://www.childhelp.org>

**Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA)**  
843-524-4350 <http://capabeaufort.org/>

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**Before you call please make sure you have:**

- \* Name and location of the child.
- \* Dates and description of incidents that precipitated the report.
- \* Identity of the alleged perpetrator and relationship to the child.