



Mental Health Association of Northern Kentucky

A LEADER IN PROVIDING ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND SERVICES THAT PROMOTE MENTAL WELLNESS

**EDUCATION AND SCREENING OUTREACH PARTNER FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND
NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

513 Madison Avenue, 3rd Floor Covington, KY 41011 859-431-1077 or www.mhanky.org

TYPES OF ABUSE

Most parents abuse their children in one way or another at some time. This does not mean they intentionally abuse their children or do so on a regular basis. It only means that they are human.

Verbal Abuse - the most common ; the parent screams obscenities and continually demeans the child ; tells him / her that he is stupid, no good, not wanted, dumb or lazy. The child is always being put down.

Physical Abuse - any intended injury or willful cruelty to a child. Hitting the child or inflicting other harm or injury to vent anger.

Emotional Abuse - all forms of abuse are emotionally abusive. The parent produces a negative emotional environment for the child. The parent expects too much, expecting the child to take care of him / her as if the child were the parent.

Sexual Abuse - the parent actively engages in sexual acts with the child of the parent passively contributes by taking no action when he / she is aware that the child is being sexually abused.

TYPES OF NEGLECT

Physical Neglect - The parent does not provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care or cleanliness. There is lack of parental guidance, supervision and general care.

Emotional Neglect - The parent expresses no emotion - neither positive or negative. He / she shows no love. It as if the child does not exist. This can be the most damaging type of neglect.

Discipline crosses the line to abuse when the parent is “disciplining” the child based upon the parent’s feelings and not upon what the child did. If this happens, on a regular basis, then it is abuse.