



EMOTIONAL ABUSE

EMOTIONAL ABUSE (about 7% of reports)

- is mental suffering, willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment, including inflicting or permitting unjustifiable physical or mental pain (unreasonable either as to necessity or degree)
- includes a repeated pattern or extreme incidents of acts or omissions by the person responsible for the child's care that have caused, or could cause, serious behavioral, cognitive, emotional, or mental disorders
- may be evidenced by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or untoward aggressive behavior toward self or others (Welfare and Institutions Code §300)
- may be based on unreasonable or impossible expectations or result from no consideration of the child's developmental capacity
- is difficult to identify because effects may only be evident in later developmental stages, behaviors of emotionally abused and emotionally disturbed children are often similar, and non-abused children may have behavioral, cognitive, or emotional problems
- includes verbal assault (belittling, screaming, threatening, shaming, blaming, using sarcasm)
 - spurning
 - exploiting/corrupting,
 - mental health/medical/educational neglect
 - unpredictable responses
 - constant family discord
 - treating children as servants or confidants
 - instilling fear through looks, gestures, or destruction of belongings or pets
 - threatening abandonment, suicide, harm to other loved ones
 - threatening punishment by God, police, psyche wards, etc.
 - physical risk or emotional damage from witnessing domestic violence
 - being inconsistent
 - denying emotional responsiveness
 - isolating, controlling access to others
 - continual negative moods
 - double-message communication
 - bossing, always winning

LAW REQUIRES THAT CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICE
MAKE A REASONABLE EFFORT
TO *PREVENT THE NEED FOR REMOVAL* OF ANY CHILD FROM THE HOME
AND TO KEEP THE CHILD IN THE CARE OF A NON-OFFENDING PARENT
WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

Child's safety must be assessed in terms of:

- nature and severity of past violence
- the risk of violence in the future
- the child's degree of exposure and resilience
- the presence of protective factors in the immediate and extended family