



ABUSIVE PARENTS or CAREGIVERS

Caution: Because quite often other causes can be attributed to the observed behaviors, no *one* of the following necessarily indicates an abusive situation.

Take special notice of parents/caregivers who:

- **Show little concern for their dependent's problems.**
Respond inappropriately to the seriousness of a problem.
Take an unusual amount of time to seek health care for dependent.
- **Are unusually antagonistic and hostile, or evasive**
when talking about the dependent's problems.
- **Seem "absent"** or literally cannot be found.
Do not respond to the clergy's inquiries or answer the door.
May come to church in controlled settings like worship,
but not other activities.
- **Do not adequately explain an injury.**
Give different explanations of the same injury.
Continue to complain about irrelevant problems unrelated to the injury.
Suggest that the cause of an injury can be attributed to a third party.
- **Are reluctant to share information about the dependent**
or seem to "con" or manipulate others, so accurate information is unavailable.
- **Use alcohol or drugs.**
- **Have no friends, neighbors, or relatives to turn to in crises.**
- **Have unrealistic expectations for the child or dependent.**
- **Are very strict disciplinarians.**
- **Were themselves abused, neglected, or deprived as children** and have not worked on the residual effects.
- **Have taken the dependent to different doctors, clinics, or hospitals** for past injuries.
- **May suffer from a personality disorder.**