

ABUSE

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse is when someone causes a child injury, emotional harm, or risk of serious harm and danger. There are four main types of child abuse. They are namely:

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Causing non-accidental physical injury to a child, e.g. kicking, burning, choking, throwing something at a child



As a result, the child suffers from physical injury e.g. bruises, cuts, burns, internal injuries, broken bones, even death

SEXUAL ABUSE

Involving a child in any kind of sexual activity
E.g. inappropriate touches or sexual talk, making a child view sexualised contents, showing a child their private parts, having sex with a child



EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Harming a child emotionally and harming their mental health and social lives

E.g. shaming, saying hurtful words like they are unloved and unwanted



NEGLECT

Not giving the care, supervision, and support needed for a child's health, safety, and well-being.

E.g. not giving a child any food to eat, clothes to wear, a place to stay



IS IT MY FAULT IF I AM ABUSED?

People who abuse children may try to cover up their wrongdoings by making the child believe that it is the child's fault. They may make a child feel guilty or ashamed and make the child believe that he or she deserves to be abused. At times, these people may tell the child to keep the abuse a secret and threaten the child to keep silent and not tell anyone. As you can see, the fault does not lie with you. If you are being abused, it is **NOT your fault**.



WHAT CAN I DO IF I SUSPECT THAT I MAY BE ABUSED OR A FRIEND THAT I KNOW IS BEING ABUSED?

Inform a **trusted adult** and this person can be your **parents/guardians, relatives, neighbours, teachers or school counsellor**.



Call the **police** at 999 immediately if you feel that you have been harmed and/or are in danger



Reporting suspected child abuse is the first step to prevent or stop the abuse. Call the **Child Protective Service Helpline** to seek help. Their number is 1800-777-0000.

- Operating hours: Monday to Sunday, 7am to 12 midnight



Get advice and support from these **Child Protection Specialist Centres**:

- Big Love Child Protection Specialist Centre <http://www.biglove.org.sg/>
- HEART@Fei Yue Child Protection Specialist Centre
<https://www.fycs.org/our-work/children/community-based-child-protection-specialist-centre/>
- PAVE Integrated Services for Individual and Family Protection Specialist Centre (PAVE ISIFPSC)
<https://www.pave.org.sg>