



Reporting Code for Child Abuse and Domestic Violence



What is child abuse?

Child abuse is any form of physical, psychological, or sexual interaction that is threatening or violent towards a minor, imposed by parents or other individuals in a position of authority or dependence. This abuse can occur actively or passively and poses a serious threat of physical or psychological harm to the child.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is violence committed by someone within the victim's domestic sphere, which may involve partners, former partners, family members, relatives, or household friends.

List of indicators for child abuse and domestic violence

- 1. Physical abuse**
- 2. Physical neglect**
- 3. Psychological abuse**
- 4. Psychological neglect**
- 5. Sexual abuse**
- 6. Partner violence**



1. Physical Abuse

Parents/caretakers injure the child or allow the child to be injured (other than as a result of an accident).

Examples of physical abuse:

- Hitting, punching, kicking, deliberately dropping, burning, poisoning, suffocation.
- Female circumcision: an operation on a girl's external genitals. The Dutch government has criminalised all forms of female circumcision.
- Shaken Baby Syndrome: combination of signs and symptoms resulting from the violent shaking of a baby.
- Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy: a condition where an adult mimics, exaggerates, causes, and/or fabricates symptoms of illness in a child.

2. Physical Neglect

Depriving the child of necessary requirements for physical health and development.

Parents/caretakers are unable or unwilling to provide minimal care with regard to physical needs.

Examples of physical neglect:

- Failure to provide adequate or suitable food.
- Failure to provide clean, weather-appropriate clothing.
- Failure to provide suitable shelter.
- Failure to provide appropriate medical, dental and mental health care.
- Failure to provide adequate hygiene.
- Failure to ensure adequate supervision.

3. Psychological Abuse

Inflicting harm to the child's emotional and/or personality development.

Examples of psychological abuse include:

- Threatening or scolding a child as a systematic pattern of belittling and denigration.
- Scapegoating the child.
- Burdening the child with excessive responsibility.
- Setting unachievable demands.
- Exposing the child to extreme, unaccountable or inappropriate behaviour.
- Locking up or tying up the child as a means of punishment or control.

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- The child witnesses violence in the family (see also 6. Partner Violence).

4. Psychological Neglect

Depriving the child's needs required for mental health and development.

Examples of psychological neglect:

- Failure to provide sufficient attention, respect, affection, love and contact
- Failure to provide sufficient space for increasing autonomy.
- Failure to ensure regular school attendance.

5. Sexual Abuse

Engaging in or attempting to engage in sexual contact with a child, either to satisfy the sexual desires of the parent/ caretaker or for financial gain.

Examples of sexual abuse:

- Showing pornographic material.
- Penetration by fingers, objects or penis.
- Sexual assault and exploitation or allowing this to happen where genital contact takes place.

- Sexual assault and exploitation or allowing this to happen where no genital contact takes place.
- Inappropriate kissing.
- Fondling of breasts.

6. Partner Violence

Partner violence is violence between adult partners who form a household together or between former partners.

When a child witnesses partner violence, it falls under psychological abuse.

Signs of partner violence:

- Regular physical injuries, such as bruises, bite marks or bruises, as well as physical complaints caused by psychological problems, such as trembling, fatigue, anxiety and depression.
- A submissive position in the relationship, insecure, frightened behaviour.
- The perpetrator exerts strong control over the partner.
- Children with learning and/or concentration problems at school, displaying aggressive behaviour or, for example, situations in which aggression is a factor.



Contact Info for Special-Task Employee & Veilig Thuis

Special-Task Employee

Please contact De Vrolijkheid and request to speak with one of their special-task employees. If they are unavailable, please call them on their mobile phone.

De Vrolijkheid
020 6273287

Monique Hoving
06 81059040
monique@vrolijkheid.nl

Carolina Agelink
06 44816452
carolina@vrolijkheid.nl

Meliha Omerovic
06 30220731
meliha@vrolijkheid.nl

Veilig Thuis

You can always contact Veilig Thuis for advice, though it is not mandatory, and the special-task employee can assist you as well. Seeking advice from Veilig Thuis does not mean the same as making a report, so you can call without consequences. If you wish to remain anonymous you can indicate this at the beginning of the call.

Veilig Thuis
0800 2000

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



You observe a potential sign of abuse or violence.

The situation is

Acute

**Call 112 and
the Vrolijkheid office
020 6273287**

Not acute

**Contact the Vrolijkheid
special-task employee
(see page 7)**

**The Vrolijkheid special-task employee investigates whether advice
should be sought from Veilig Thuis (note: this is not yet a report)**

**The Vrolijkheid special-task employee contacts the COA (*Central
Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers*) special-task employee at
your asylum seekers' centre (*azc*)**

**The Vrolijkheid special-task employee does/does not make a report to
Veilig Thuis**

**Write down your actual observations (what you have seen and heard)
and mail these to the special-task employee**

Feedback

There will be feedback from the Vrolijkheid special-task employee

**Your concern
has been resolved**

**Your concern persists or returns:
start again from the top of this
scheme**