

## SCREENING GUIDELINES FOR CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE

Investigations of physical abuse reports shall be categorized to include: an Intra-familial investigation; Specialized Assessment/Investigation; and/or Stranger Danger.

Intra-familial investigations of physical abuse include an alleged perpetrator who:

- Is a family member.
- Has sanctioned or continued access.
- Is involved in the daily or regular care of the child.

Examples of a physical abuse Intra-familial alleged perpetrator are mother, father, step-parent, paramour (living out of the home) of the parent/caretaker, an uncle, neighbor, an unlicensed daycare provider, etc.

A Specialized Assessment/Investigation includes an alleged perpetrator of physical abuse who meets the definition of an Out-of-home care setting; are responsible for the physical care/custody and control of a child; and/or has access to a child by virtue of his/her employment/affiliation to an institution. An example of a Specialized Assessment/Investigation alleged perpetrator includes a teacher, boy/girl scout leader, day camp counselor, licensed foster parent, licensed daycare provider, etc.

An Out-of-home care setting is a detention facility, shelter facility, foster home, pre-finalized adoptive placement, certified foster home, approved foster care, organization, certified organization, child day-care center, type A family day-care home, type B family day-care home, group home, institution, state institution, residential facility, residential care facility, residential camp, day camp, hospital, medical clinic, children's residential center, public or nonpublic school, or respite home that is responsible for the care, physical custody, or control of a child.

Stranger Danger investigations of physical abuse include an alleged perpetrator who:

- Is **not** a family member
- Has **no** sanctioned or continued access.
- Is **not** involved in the daily or regular care of the child.

An example of stranger danger includes any alleged perpetrator who had no relationship to the alleged child victim/family prior to the act. Stranger Danger is outlined in the Family In Need of Services Guideline.

Examples provided are not all inclusive. If more than one referral type is present, the totality of the circumstances should be used in the consideration of a screen in. If necessary, consult legal advisor.

ORC DEFINITIONS	SCREEN IN EXAMPLES (ASSOCIATED WITH ORC)	SCREEN OUT EXAMPLES
<p align="center"><b>Abused Child</b></p> <p>Exhibits evidence of any physical or mental injury or death, inflicted other than by accidental means, or an injury or death which is at variance with the history given of it. (ORC 2151.031)</p> <p>*Except a child exhibiting evidence of corporal punishment or other physical disciplinary measure by a parent, guardian, custodian, person having custody or control, or person in loco parentis of a child. Child is endangered, except that the court need not find any person has been convicted of the offense in order to find that a child is an abused child (ORC 2151.031)</p> <p><b>Endangered child (ORC 2919.22)</b>  A. Parent, guardian, custodian, person having custody and control, or person in locos parentis of a child creates a substantial risk to the health or safety, by violating a duty of care, protection or support;</p> <p>B. Person:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. abused a child.</li> <li>2. tortured or cruelly abused a child.</li> <li>3. administered corporal punishment or other physical disciplinary measure, or physical restrain the child in a cruel manner or for a prolonged period of time, which punishment, discipline, or restraint is excessive under the circumstances and creates a substantial risk of serious physical harm to a child;</li> <li>4. Repeatedly administered unwarranted disciplinary measures to a child, when there is substantial risk that such conduct, if continued, will seriously impair or retard the child's mental health or development.</li> </ol> <p>C. Person operated a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them, when one or more children under eighteen years of age are in the vehicle.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Physical Injury</b></p> <p>Excessive discipline would include discipline that is: Inappropriate to the age of the child; Inconsistent, arbitrary and designed not to educate, but to instill fear; the result of unreasonable expectations or demands on the child; and/or the caretaker loses control during discipline.</p> <p>*Serious inflicted and/or multiple injuries to any area of the body, including the buttocks.</p> <p>*Inflicted injury resulting in cuts, bruises or abrasions to area's of the body other than buttocks, arms and legs.</p> <p>*Inflicted injury that requires medical attention.</p> <p>*Injury to vulnerable or sensitive areas of the body (e.g. eyes, genitals).</p> <p>*Injury not consistent with the history.</p> <p>*Widespread bruising/injuries.</p> <p>*Various stages of healing.</p> <p>*Corporal punishment of an infant (child under the age of one year).</p> <p>*Dangerous acts which place child at risk of serious harm, such as kicking or punching a child in the torso, using electric shock, preventing a child from breathing.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Physical Injury</b></p> <p>*Child's skin and skeletal structure are free of bruises, cuts, burns and fractures. Injury resulting from an accident.</p> <p>*Corporal punishment resulting in a minor injury to a non-sensitive area of the body that does not require medical treatment.</p> <p>*Superficial welts, scratches, and/or bruises, on a child's buttocks, arms or legs that do not require medical treatment (unless bruising is widespread).</p> <p>*Temporary redness as a result of corporal punishment.</p>

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	<p>*Death resulted in the acts of a family member and/or an individual known by the family and/or child.</p> <p>*Shaken Baby Syndrome.</p>	
Abused Child	Mental Injury/Emotional Maltreatment	Mental Injury/Emotional Maltreatment
<p>Because of the acts of his parents, guardian, or custodian, suffers physical or mental injury that harms or threatens to harm the child's health or welfare. (ORC 2151.031)</p> <p>*Mental injury results in harm of a child due to the acts of the parent. A child exhibits behavioral, cognitive, and/or emotional concerns indicative of a possible mental disorder. (Diagnosis not required at receipt of referral)</p> <p><b>Domestic Violence</b> (ORC 2919.25)</p> <p>A. No person shall knowingly cause or attempt to cause physical harm to a family or household member. No person shall recklessly cause serious physical harm to a family or household member.</p> <p>B. No person, by threat of force, shall knowingly cause a family or household member to believe that the offender will cause imminent physical harm to the family or household member.</p> <p>* Family or household member means any of the following who is residing or has resided with the offender: A spouse, a person living as a spouse, or a former spouse of the offender; parent or a child of the offender, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to the offender; A parent or a child of a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the offender, or another person related by consanguinity or affinity to a spouse, person living as a spouse, or former spouse of the offender; The natural parent of any child of whom the offender is the other natural parent or is the putative other natural parent.</p> <p>(Continued)</p>	<p>*Parent threatens child with extreme or vague but sinister punishment.</p> <p>*Parent encourages child to engage in criminal/delinquent behavior.</p> <p>*Parent repeatedly involves child in activities that cause significant distress to the child.</p> <p>*Child displays indicators of mental injury as result of the prolonged effects of activity, threats of torture and/or ritualistic maltreatment.</p> <p>*Suspicion of mental injury of a child may include multiple or a combination of stress related behaviors as a result of parental harm or threat of harm, such as bedwetting, nightmares, cowering, etc.</p>	<p>*Yelling and screaming at a child.</p> <p>*Child exhibiting a mental health issue, not the result of parents behavior.</p> <p>*Isolated occurrences of frightening activities or distressful events without indication of mental injury.</p>
	Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence
	<p>*Child received injury as a result of incident.</p> <p>*Pattern of domestic violence in the household and/or child witnessed incidents.</p> <p>*Weapon or threat of a weapon utilized in incident.</p>	<p>*Verbal argument.</p> <p>*Law enforcement made arrest; however, reported information does not meet ORC definitions.</p>

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<p>* Person living as a spouse means a person who is living or has lived with the offender in a common law marital relationship, who otherwise is cohabiting with the offender, or who otherwise has cohabited with the offender within five years prior to the date of the alleged commission of the act in question.</p>	<b>Access to Illegal Drugs</b>	<b>Access to Illegal Drugs</b>
	<p>*Child has access to needles and/or drugs.</p> <p>*Parent/Caretaker knowingly allows child access/exposure to a meth lab.</p> <p>*Child employed as part of the operation of drug distribution.</p>	<p>*Parent arrested for drug offense; however, child not involved and/or no presence of safety issues.</p> <p>*Child's exposure to meth lab is through no fault of the parent/caretaker (e.g. Meth lab located in an apartment complex)</p>
	<b>Positive Screen for Illegal/Legal Substance at Birth</b>	<b>Positive Screen for Illegal/Legal Substance at Birth</b>
	<p>*Newborn has positive screening for marijuana, cocaine, alcohol, valium, oxycotin, etc.</p> <p>*Newborn exhibits physical indicators of withdrawal.</p>	<p>*At delivery, mother's screen is positive and, child screen is negative for marijuana, etc. and/or mother admits to use; however child displays no symptoms of withdrawal and there are no other concerns regarding mother's ability to care for child.</p>
	<b>Caregiver Substance Abuse</b>	<b>Caregiver Substance Abuse</b>
	<p>*Parent arrested for operating a vehicle under the influence (.08) of drugs/alcohol with child in car (harm or potential harm exists).</p> <p>* Direct knowledge reported of parent operating a vehicle with child in car while under the influence and having slurred speech, impaired motor skills and/or incapacitated.</p>	<p>*Caregiver uses drugs/alcohol; however, not currently having an effect of parenting ability.</p> <p>*Parent operating a vehicle with child in car and has odor of alcohol but no motor skill impairment.</p>
	<b>Ingestion</b>	<b>Ingestion</b>
<p>*Forcing a child to eat a non-food item or food in an excessive amount that might be painful or toxic.</p>	<p>*Parent disciplines child by washing the mouth with soap without ingestion and/or illness.</p>	

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	<p>*Child over medicated resulting in death or injury.</p> <p>*Over the counter medication given inappropriately creating threat of harm. (e.g. Giving an infant an adult Tylenol, giving young children a sleeping aid for adults to make them sleep).</p> <p>*Parent gives child medication prescribed for another child, which could result in harm.</p> <p>*Parent inappropriately gives psychotropic medication such as lithium which could cause harm to the child.</p> <p>*Parent provides excessive amounts of alcohol to child causing impairment, toxicity and/or resulting in potential harm or death.</p> <p>*Parent providing illegal substances to a child.</p> <p>*Parent and child using illegal substance together.</p>	<p>*Parent puts a drop of hot sauce in child's mouth, but allows child to spit it out.</p>
Abused Child (Out of Home Care Setting)	Physical Injury	Physical Injury
<p>Child is subjected to out-of-home care child abuse. (ORC 2151.031)</p> <p><b>Out-of-home care child abuse:</b> (ORC 2151.01.1) means any of the following when committed by a person responsible for the care of a child in out-of-home care:</p> <p>1. Denial to a child, as a means of punishment, of proper or necessary subsistence, education, medical care, or other care necessary for a child's health;</p>	<p>*Same as above category of physical injury.</p> <p>*Restraint of a child that causes bruising or pain.</p>	<p>*Rule violation</p>

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<p>2. Use of restraint procedures on a child that cause injury or pain;</p> <p>3. Administration of prescription drugs or psychotropic medication to the child without the written approval and ongoing supervision of a licensed physician;</p> <p>4. Commission of any act, other than by accidental means, that results in any injury to or death of the child in out-of-home care or commission of any act by accidental means that results in an injury to or death of a child in out-of-home care and that is at variance with the history given of the injury or death.</p>	<b>Ingestion</b>	<b>Ingestion</b>
	<p>*Providing prescription medication to child that has been prescribed to another (ex. Give John's medication to Mary).</p> <p>*Failure to provide and/or have prescribing physician review prescription medication as recommended by physician.</p> <p>*Over/Under medicating child.</p>	<p>*Rule Violation</p>
	<b>Punishment</b>	<b>Punishment</b>
	<p>*Denial of proper and necessary food and water, refusal to send to school, failure to seek and/or prevent medical treatment for injury or illness as means of punishment.</p>	<p>*Child refuses to eat provided meal, take prescribed medication, and/or attend school.</p> <p>*Failure to provide snacks.</p> <p>*Limiting child's liquid intake in the evening hours due to issues related to bed wetting.</p>