

Types of Neglect

Neglect is often considered a category of Abuse. However, the term child abuse is generally used to describe something harmful done to the child. Child neglect describes what is not done for the child. The failure to meet a child's needs is neglect. The nurture and care of a child is vital to their physical and emotional development. Neglect during this vital stage of development is a life-shaping event for the child, which will affect his or her future success as an adult and parent.

Five areas of General Neglect

1. **Physical** neglect is not providing the child with basic needs necessary for life. The failure to provide food and shelter (electricity, heat, safety, a bed) daily in a consistent manner. This can also include safety or preventing physical abuse.
2. **Medical** neglect is the failure to provide medical care for the child. This includes not taking the child for immunization, to the dentist, to the doctor, missing appointments, and ignoring doctor's instructions. This also includes the failure to seek urgent care for threatening and serious illness or injury.
3. **Educational** neglect is determined primarily by the effort made to keep the child in school. Missing more than 20 days of school is a general guideline. However, shuffling the child between several schools during the year and frequent tardiness are also considered neglect.
4. **Supervision** neglect describes the failure to provide the appropriate level of supervision for the child. This would include not knowing where and who is caring for your child. This also includes the appropriate choice of alternate supervision (when a friend or family member cares for the child. Desertion and shuffling from home to home are also considered supervision neglect.
5. **Emotional** neglect is the lack of vital and positive human contact. A child's physical and emotional development requires the daily nurture provided by caring words and physical touch. Without this daily parent-child interaction, the child will not develop or thrive. The exposure to severe daily conflict or domestic violence is also emotional neglect.