

# **Child Abuse & Neglect** in Washington State

## ▶ **KNOW THE SIGNS**

Unexplained injuries (bruises, burns, welts)

Difficulty sitting or walking

Unusual sexual knowledge/behavior

Abandonment

Fear of a caregiver

Shrinks from approaching adults

Afraid to go home

Unexplained absences

Unexplained lags in physical development

Failure to provide basic needs

Begs/steals food or money

Sudden behavior changes

Poor hygiene

### **RCW 26.44.050**

A law enforcement officer may take, or cause to be taken, a child into custody without a court order if there is probable cause to believe that the child is abused or neglected and that the child would be injured or could not be taken into custody if it were necessary to first obtain a court order pursuant to RCW 13.34.050.



**For more signs, visit our website at:**

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/safety/abuseWhat.asp>

For a crime, physical  
or sexual abuse or a  
life-threatening situation,  
call 911

Report abuse  
and neglect  
involving children

**Make The Call!**

**Mandatory  
Reporters**

1-800-562-5624  
(Answered by DSHS employees, 24/7)

Statewide after normal business hours,  
weekends and holidays:

[www.dshs.wa.gov/ca](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca)

Mandatory reporters call directly to the  
appropriate local office.  
You are encouraged to look on the Internet  
for information about reporting child abuse  
in Washington State at:

**Call this toll-free number** if you suspect that a child or vulnerable  
adult is being abused or neglected. The  
operator will connect you with the right  
DSHS office to make your report.

DSHS TOLL FREE

1-866-

**END HARM**

1-866-363-4276

Voice/TTY Accessible  
1-800-737-7931

Washington  
State  
Department  
of Social &  
Health Services

**If you're calling about an immediate life-threatening emergency, dial 911.**

For more information about reporting abuse of a child or vulnerable adult,  
visit the DSHS web site at [www.dshs.wa.gov/](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/)

DSHS 22-800 (4/06)