

Reporting Child Abuse

Call the County Social Services Department's Child Protective Services Child Abuse Hotline at **(858) 560-2191** or **(800) 344-6000** to report situations in which you suspect that a child has been abused or appears to be at risk of being abused. Your report will be investigated and steps will be taken to protect the child and preserve the family unit. The SDPD will be informed if abuse is involved. If you know that abuse has occurred, you should call SDPD1 directly at **(619) 531-2000** or **(858) 484-3154**. If the abuse is in progress you should call **911**. Officers will investigate, take steps to protect the victim and prosecute the abuser, and inform the County Social Service Department.

The following are some signs of child abuse:

- Unusual or suspicious injuries
- Sexual language or behavior beyond what is normal for the child's age
- Specific comments or complaints about abuse
- Lack of basic needs for food, clothing, and medical care
- Poor hygiene
- Lack of supervision for long periods of time

And for sexual exploitation:

- Changes in behavior, extreme mood swings, withdrawal, fearfulness, and excessive crying
- Bed-wetting, nightmares, fear of going to bed, or other sleep disturbances
- Acting out inappropriate sexual activity or showing unusual interest in sexual matters
- Sudden acting out of feelings or aggression, rebellious behavior
- Regression to infantile behavior
- Pain, itching, bleeding, fluid, or rawness in private areas
- Fear a certain places, people, or activities, especially being alone with certain people.