

Child Abuse Intervention

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The process of a child abuse intervention may vary according to the jurisdiction where abuse occurs. Intervention often begins, however, with someone contacting authorities at the earliest suspicion of a child being harmed. After initial contact is made, authorities launch a child abuse investigation. In most jurisdictions, if abuse is suspected of occurring in a child's home the child will be removed from the home pending further investigation. If allegations of abuse are found to be true, child abuse intervention will likely include the criminal prosecution of the abuser, as well as therapy and other supportive services to help a child recover from the abuse she or he has suffered.

Child abuse intervention is necessary to rescue children from harmful situations. Such harm includes gross neglect, physical abuse, mental abuse, sexual abuse or emotional abuse at the hands of an adult. Child on child abuse also occurs between siblings and other children, and may be reported for further investigation, as well. Child abuse victims do not always volunteer information about the abuse they are suffering and it is therefore important for individuals noticing signs of child abuse, such as skin abrasions, depression and negative behavioral changes, to contact authorities with this information so that a child abuse intervention can begin.

In many parts of the world, special hotlines have been established to make reporting child abuse an anonymous activity. In the absence of such a service, however, local police departments, social service agencies, doctors or school teachers can be contacted to begin a child abuse intervention effort. These individuals are usually trained to handle such reports and can usually help rescue a child in need.

As part of a child abuse intervention, a thorough investigation into the claims of abuse is necessary. Social service authorities will usually begin by questioning a child, as well as the child's parents and others who can offer insight into the child's life and help determine whether or not she or he is being harmed. If the abuse is suspected to involve someone living in the child's home, the child may be temporarily removed from the home and placed in a protective shelter, such as a foster home, until it is determined whether or not abuse claims are valid. If abuse is found to be taking place in a child's home, the abuser will likely be removed from the household and the child may or may not be returned to the home at the discretion of social workers, court magistrates and other authorities participating in the investigation.

After a successful child abuse intervention, special counselors who are trained and experienced in providing therapy for child abuse victims will usually be assigned to help a child process what has happened. Throughout the recovery process, authorities will continue to work to ensure the child's safety and recovery. Many times, social workers, therapists and others who provide child abuse help and supportive services will continue to be involved in that child's life for a number of years until it is determined that the child is thriving well.