

Child Abuse

Consists of any of the following:

- a. *Sexual abuse* includes any act or interaction whether it involves genital or physical contact, with or without consent which involves sexual contact, molestation or sexual exploitation of a child by a parent or any other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a child,² whether physical injuries are sustained or not, to include:
 1. The intentional touching of the genitals or intimate parts including the female breast, the genital area, groin, inner thigh and buttocks of a child or of a perpetrator by a child for purposes of sexual arousal or gratification.
 2. Rape, sexual intercourse (vaginal or anal), oral/genital, oral/anal contact.
 3. The intentional touching and/or displaying of one's genitals or intimate parts including the female breast, the genital area, groin, inner thigh and buttocks in the presence and view of a child for purposes of sexual arousal or gratification.
 4. Permitting, causing, encouraging or assisting in the depiction of or posing for viewing by any person, either in person or by way of graphic means including digital or photographic image of the partially or fully unclothed body of a child, displaying intimate parts, in motion or not in motion, alone or with other persons, or the depiction of a child in apparent observation of sex acts by others in the child's presence.
 5. Displaying or distributing to a child any picture, photograph, book, pamphlet, digital image, moving or magazine the cover or content of which is principally made of descriptions or depictions of sex acts or contact, or which consists of pictures of nude or partially denuded figures posed or presented in a manner which the average person applying contemporary community standards would find, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest.
- b. *Physical abuse* includes any act which:
 1. Willfully causes or inflicts physical injury on a child or
 2. Willfully causes mental injury or psychological injury to a child by intentionally engendering fear of physical injury to that child.
 3. It is the policy of the Diocese of Syracuse that corporal punishment of a child is prohibited in all entities under the auspices of the Diocese of Syracuse.

² Includes all covered persons or any adult who has been given responsibility for temporary care or supervision of a child. The passing of responsibility may be by a parent, guardian

or authorized person, regardless of duration, for a church or school related activity.

4. Physical abuse does not include the appropriate physical restraint of a child who is attempting to injure another person or him/herself, or the appropriate physical direction of a child away from danger or the minimum restraint necessary to place a child in “time out” or other appropriate limitation of movement to promote the child’s regaining of safety and emotional control.

c. *Neglect* includes:

1. Abandonment of a child by a parent, custodian or guardian.
2. Lack of care by not providing appropriate and necessary food, shelter, clothing and education.
3. Not providing care or control in respect to physical or emotional health: the refusal or inability to discharge parental or custodial obligations; and expressions of intention by parent, guardian or institution to discontinue care.