

# Section 10 – Physical, Sexual, & Emotional Abuse Overview

***“All children have the right to be protected from physical neglect and abuse, including sexual victimization, and from emotional neglect and abuse.”***

***- Mission and Guiding Principles for Pennsylvania’s Child Dependency System***

In any of its forms, child abuse touches the lives of many children in the child welfare system. Despite its form, abuse can affect a child physically, cognitively, emotionally, and socially for years following an incident. Judges overseeing dependency proceedings are often asked to determine and make a judicial finding regarding whether a child has been the victim of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse.

This section provides two primary resources. The first article describes the impact of maltreatment on infants and adolescents, especially as it impacts brain development. The second addresses medical evidence in sexual abuse cases. Additional resources cover various topics, including Shaken Baby Syndrome, sexual abuse, and parental verbal aggression.

- I. This interesting report summarizes the impact of maltreatment on infants and adolescents and the risks if left unattended. (See, *Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2015*)
- II. A helpful resource to assist in understanding clinical evidence of sexual abuse and clarification despite clear genital contact, that the examination may be nonspecific or “normal.” (See, *Kellogg, N.D, Menard, S.W., and Santos, A, 2004*)

