

## Appendix 1: Child Abuse Definitions

Child Abuse is the mistreatment of a Child that:

- causes, is causing or is likely to cause any detrimental effect so that a Child's physical, psychological, or emotional wellbeing; or
- does, or is likely to, endanger that a Child's physical or emotional health, development, or wellbeing,

whether through a:

- single act, omission, or circumstance; or
- series or combination of acts, omissions, or circumstances,

and includes:

1. **Physical Abuse** which occurs when a person subjects a Child to application of physical force, which may cause injury intentionally or inadvertently as a result of physical punishment or the aggressive treatment of a Child. Physically abusive behaviour includes, but is not limited to:
  - shoving, hitting, slapping, shaking, throwing, punching, biting, burning, kicking; and
  - harmful training methods or overtraining where there is the potential to result in damage to a Child's physical development.
2. **Emotional or Psychological Abuse** which occurs when a Child does not receive the love, affection, or attention they need for healthy emotional, psychological, and social development or are exposed to violence/abuse against other Children or adults. Such abuse may involve:
  - repeated rejection or threats to a Child;
  - constant criticism, teasing, ignoring, threatening, yelling, scapegoating, ridicule, intentional exclusion, continual coldness, and rejection;
  - Bullying and Harassment;
  - harmful training methods or overtraining where there is the potential to result in damage to a Child's physical, intellectual, or emotional wellbeing and development.
3. **Sexual Abuse** which occurs when an adult, or a person in authority (i.e. older, or younger but more physically or intellectually developed) involves a Child in any sexual activity. A child cannot provide consent, therefore even if 'consent' is given, it still constitutes sexual abuse.

Perpetrators of sexual abuse take advantage of their power, authority, or position over the Child for their own benefit. It can include making sexual comments to a Child, kissing, touching a Child's genitals or breasts, oral sex, or intercourse with a Child.

Sexual exploitation is a form of Sexual Abuse and occurs when Children are forced into or involved in sexual activities that are then unlawfully recorded in some way, or recorded without the consent of one or more parties, or used to produce child sexual abuse material. Such material can be in the form of photographs or videos, whether published or circulated on the internet or social media. Encouraging a Child to view pornographic videos, websites, or images, or engaging a Child to participate in sexual conversations over social media or otherwise is also considered sexual exploitation.

4. **Neglect** which is the persistent failure or deliberate failure or denial to meet a Child's basic needs. Child Neglect includes the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, adequate supervision, clean water, medical attention, or supervision to the

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INT011 – Child Safeguarding Policy (Commencement date 1 January 2023)

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extent that the Child's health and development is or is likely to be harmed. Types of neglect include physical, medical, emotional, educational neglect and abandonment.

5. **Exposure to Family Violence** which is any abusive behaviour used by a person in a relationship to gain and maintain control over their partner or ex-partner. It can include a broad range of behaviour that causes fear and physical and/or psychological harm. If a Child is living in a household where there have been incidents of domestic violence, then they may be at risk of significant physical and/or psychological harm.

