

Working With Victims Of Child Abuse



Provided by
Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney

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A message from
Prosecuting Attorney Lee F. Fisher

This booklet summarizes the Child Abuse Statute. It also provides valuable resource information for individuals who have been victimized. Legal steps and psychological stresses following victimization are sometimes complicated and lengthy. We want you to know that your concerns as a victim of crime are uppermost in our minds as we seek justice in your case.

There is a victim advocate at each of our office sites to serve you: Grand Haven, Holland, and West Olive. Please do not hesitate to contact them during business hours when you need help with or more information about your rights as a victim.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L F Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "F".

Lee F. Fisher
Prosecuting Attorney

Contact Information

Crime Victim Assistance
Compensation
Information
Legal Rights
Support

Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney
414 Washington Street – Room 120
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Grand Haven: 616-846-8300

Holland: 616-355-4310

Hudsonville: 616-846-8338

Juvenile: 616-846-8338

(Monday thru Friday 8am to 5pm)

Child Abuse

A. Statute

MCL 750.136b states:

1. As used in this section:
 - A. “Child” means a person who is less than 18 years of age and is not emancipated by operation of law as provided in section 4 of 1968 PA 293, MCL 722.4.
 - B. “Cruel” means brutal, inhuman, sadistic, or that which torments.
 - C. Omission” means a willful failure to provide food, clothing, or shelter necessary for a child’s welfare or willful abandonment of a child.

- D. "Person" means a child's parent or guardian or any other person who cares for, has custody of, or has authority over a child regardless of the length of time that a child is cared for, in the custody of, or subject to the authority of that person.
- E. "Physical Harm" means any injury to a child's physical condition.
- F. "serious physical harm" means any physical injury to a child that seriously impairs the child's health or physical well-being, including but not limited to, brain damage, a skull or bone fracture, subdural hemorrhage or hematoma, dislocation, sprain, internal injury, poisoning, burn or scald, or severe cut.
- G. "Serious Mental Harm" means an injury to a child's mental condition or welfare

that is not necessarily permanent but results in visibly demonstrable manifestations of a substantial disorder of thought or mood which significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life.

2. A person is guilty of child abuse in the first degree if the person knowingly or intentionally causes serious physical or serious mental harm to a child. Child abuse in the first degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 15 years.

3. A person is guilty of child abuse in the second degree if any of the following apply:
 - (a) The person's omission causes serious physical harm or serious mental harm to a child

or if the person's reckless act causes serious physical harm or serious mental harm to a child.

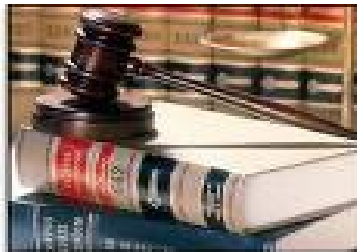
- (b) The person knowingly or intentionally commits an act likely to cause serious physical or mental harm to a child regardless of whether harm results.
- (c) The person knowingly or intentionally commits an act that is cruel to a child regardless of whether harm results.

- 4. Child abuse in the second degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 4 years.
- 5. A person is guilty of child abuse in the third degree if any of the following apply:

- (a) The person knowingly or intentionally causes physical harm to a child.
 - (b) The person knowingly or intentionally commits an act that under circumstances poses an unreasonable risk of harm or injury to a child, and the act results in physical harm to a child.
6. Child abuse in the third degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years.
7. A person is guilty of child abuse in the fourth degree if any of the following apply:
- a. The person's omission or reckless act causes physical harm to a child.

b. The person knowingly or intentionally commits an act that under the circumstances poses an unreasonable risk of harm or injury to a child, regardless of whether physical harm results.

6. Child abuse in the fourth degree is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year.



Help and Healing Resources

For Victims of Child Abuse



We sincerely hope that you find the support that you need to help you during this difficult time. The following are some resources you may wish to consult.

211 (your 24 hr. link to Health & Human Resources)

Dial 2-1-1 or

Toll Free: 877-211-5253

Website: www.CALL-211.org

Bethany Christian Services
(Child & Adolescent Therapy)
Spanish & English
Holland: 616-396-0623

Catholic Charities of West Michigan
(Counseling) Spanish &
English Holland: 616-
796-9595

Resilience

(24 hr. crisis hotline – English &
Spanish –emergency shelter for
abused women & their children)
Toll Free: 1-800-848-5991

Childhelp USA

(Internet Safety & Child Abuse)

1-800-422-4453

Website: www.childhelpusa.org

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)

(Abuse Prevention & Intervention)

Holland: 616-393-6123

Website: www.cac-ottawa.org

Children's Protective Services

(Provides investigation and evaluation of referrals on child abuse and neglect, casework, counseling with parents and children, referral, parenting instruction, and removal and placement of children if necessary. Anyone may call with information about a reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect of children in Ottawa County.)

Holland: 616-394-7220

Community Action Agency of Ottawa County
(Financial Self-Sufficiency Support for
Housing & Food)
Holland: 616-393-4433

Community Action House
(Clothing Distribution, Food Pantry, Case
Management & Homeless Prevention
Programs)
English & Spanish
Holland: 616-392-2368

Crime Victim Services Commission
Michigan Dept. of Community Health
(Crime Victim Compensation Applications)
Lansing: 517-373-7373

Department of Human Services
(Counseling, Aid to Dependant Children,
Food Stamps, Medicaid)
Holland: 616-394-7200

El Centro, Inc.
(Connected to Bethany Christian
Services.)
Hispanic Counseling
Holland: 616-396-3391

Federal Bureau of Investigation's
Crimes Against Children Program
(Internet Safety & Child Abuse)
Website:
www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/cac/crimesmain.htm

Good Samaritan Ministries (General
Assistance Resource) Holland: 616-392-7159

Holland Community Hospital
Behavioral Health Services
(Outpatient & Inpatient Mental
Health Counseling Services)
Holland: 616-392-5141

Holland Rescue Mission
(Food and Shelter)
Holland: 616-396-2200

Isabel's House
(Counseling Services)
Spring Lake: 616-847-0207

Jenison Psychological Services
(Counseling Services)
Jenison: 616-457-0016

Love Inc. of NW Ottawa Co.
(Referral Services to Families)
Grand Haven: 616-846-2701
Spring Lake: 616-844-1360

Mental Health Helpline
Suicide/Crisis Intervention
Grand Haven: 616-842-4357
Holland: 616-396-4357
Toll Free: 1-866-512-4357

MIChild- Health Insurance
(Health insurance program for uninsured children of Michigan's working families.)
Toll Free: 888-988-6300

Michigan Attorney General's Office
1-800-24-abuse (1-800-242-2873)
(Call to Report Suspected
Abuse, Neglect, or Financial
Exploitation by a Licensed Provider
or Residential Facility.)
Website: www.michigan.gov/ag

**National Center For Missing and
Exploited Children**
(Internet Safety & Child Abuse)
1-800-843-5678
Website: www.missingkids.com

National Center For Victims of Crime
National Crime Victim Helpline
(no phone assistance)

Website: www.ncvc.org

National Criminal Justice Reference
Service/Office for Victims of Crime
(Resource Center)

1-800-851-3420

TTY: 1-877-712-9270

Website: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ovcres/

National Organization For
Victim Assistance

1-800-TRY-NOVA (1-800-879-6682)

Website: www.trynova.org

Ottawa County
Community Mental Health
(Counseling Services)
Grand Haven: 616-842-5350
Holland: 616-392-1873
Hudsonville: 616-669-6160

Pathways of Michigan
(Counseling Services)
Grand Haven: 616-846-5880
Holland: 616-396-2301
(Spanish)

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health
Services
(Children, Adolescent & Family
Counseling)
Grand Haven: 616-847-5145
Holland: 616-820-3780
Zeeland: 616-741-3790

Prevent Child Abuse America
(Internet Safety & Child Abuse)
1-312-663-3520
Website: www.preventchildabuse.org

SAFE KIDS Lakeshore Coalition
(Parent education, childhood injury
prevention and safety products. Low
cost car seat program.)
Holland: 616-396-7566

Salvation Army
(General Assistance)
Grand Haven: 616-842-3380
Holland: 616-392-4461

Silent observer
(for all of Ottawa County)
Holland: 616-392-4443

Stop Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN)
(A volunteer group of individuals from
community and county agencies
dedicated to the prevention of child
abuse and neglect through awareness,
education, and programming.)
Holland: 616-396-2301 ext. 132

The Michigan Victim Alliance
(Assists Victims of Violence, Trauma
& Abuse)
Website: www.mivictims.org

Tri Cities Ministries
(Counseling Services)
Grand Haven: 616-842-9160

Western Michigan Legal Services
(Legal Aid)
1-800-968-4887

Definitions of Child Abuse

The following definitions of child abuse are based on Michigan's Child Protection Law and are in the Child Protective Services Policy manual:

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is a non-accidental injury to a child by the person responsible for the child's health and welfare. Physical abuse may include, but is not limited to, burning, beating, kicking, and punching. It is usually the easiest abuse to identify because of the physical evidence of bruises, burns, or broken bones or other unexplained injuries. Internal injuries may not be readily apparent.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse encompasses several different types of inappropriate sexual

behavior. (1) Sexual contact meaning any intentional touching that can be reasonably construed as being for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification, or any other improper purposes. (2) Sexual penetration. (3) Accosting, soliciting, or enticing a child to commit, or attempt to commit, an act of sexual contact or penetration, including prostitution.

Mental Injury

A psychological condition (diagnosed by a mental health practitioner) caused by physical or verbal acts, omissions, (including the denial of appropriate treatment), or maintaining an environment by the person responsible for the child's health and welfare which:

renders the child chronically anxious, agitated, depressed, socially withdrawn, psychotic, or unreasonable fear that his or her life and/or safety or that of another family member is threatened, or chronically interferes with the child's ability to accomplish age appropriate milestones.

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If you suspect child abuse call the
Michigan Department of Human Services
24 hour Protective Services Hotline @

855-444-3911

NO CHILD ABUSE



“This project was made possible by the Crime Victim Services Commission and the Prosecuting Attorney’s Association of Michigan.”