

# Suspected Abuse Guideline

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## Assessment

- Using open ended questions try to get the following things answered:
  - Where are you hurt?
    - Perform site specific evaluation to determine injury, need for medical care.
    - Are there any visible signs of abuse anywhere, not just where they are hurting now.
  - Can you tell me how this happened?
    - Details:
      - I was kicked: with a bare foot, a boot, etc.
      - I was hit: with an open hand, fist or object.
      - I was pushed: did you fall down, did you fall down stairs, did you fall into any objects.
      - I was burned: with a candle, a cigarette, a lighter, hot water.
      - Etc.
  - Can you tell me who hurt you?
  - When did XX hurt you?
  - Where were you when XX hurt you?
  - Was there anyone else with you when this happened?
  - Has this ever happened before?

## Recommendations

- Do:
  - Assure child they are not in trouble
  - Remain calm and provide support
  - Encourage people to be truthful
  - Let child explain it in their own words
  - Control emotions~ don't act shocked, surprised.
  - Consider the setting, private space, may ask school staff to leave room if needed
  - Kids are concrete; pajamas versus clothes
  - Phrases like "and then what...."
  - Tell them thank you
  - Document and report

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- Do Not
  - Interrogate
  - Tell the story for them
  - Interrupt
  - They will shut down, let them finish
  - Don't ask why
  - Rapid fire, they need time to think

SD CPS: 1-877-244-0864

ND CPS: 1-833-958-3500

Standing Rock Reservation: 1-701-854-3431

IA Abuse Hotline: 1-800-362-2178

Maine Child Protective Intake: 1-800-452-1999