



U.S. Department of Defense

**MILITARY**  
**ONE SOURCE**

## Leaders: Spread Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect, and How to Report It (content for an email or newsletter)

### Information for installation-level military leaders

The email below is a template you can use to reach out to your network of service members and military families to share how they can recognize some of the signs of child abuse and neglect and how to report it.

**Subject line:** Recognizing child abuse and neglect

**Body copy:**

Dear military community member,

The entire military community has a role to play in recognizing signs of child abuse and neglect. Some common signs of abuse in children are:

- Sudden changes in behavior or school performance
- Always preparing for something bad to happen
- Seemingly always lacking adult supervision
- Unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones or black eyes
- Fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school
- Being frightened of a parent or caregiver and protesting or crying when it is time to go home from a playdate, school or other outside activity
- Abusing animals or pets

Helping a child is always the right thing to do. You can report suspicions of child abuse and neglect in your community by:

- Calling 911 or military law enforcement if a child is in immediate danger
- Calling your installation Family Advocacy Program office
- Calling your local Child Protective Services office
- Calling the National Child Abuse Hotline at 800-422-4453

If you're not sure what to do, you can always contact Military OneSource at 800-342-9647.

V/r,