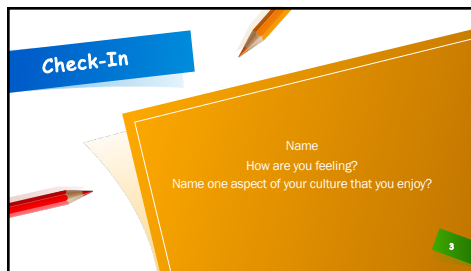




1



2



3



4

Our House, Inc.

Our House Inc. is a Culturally Specific Agency

(662)-332-LOVE (5683)
(hotline)

MISSION

To lead, empower and inspire change, by eliminating domestic violence and sexual violence through intervention, prevention, prosecution, victim protection and sustainable restoration in rural communities.

We seek to enhance the lives of survivors of interpersonal violence by providing services that meet the psychological, spiritual, and cultural needs of those we serve.

5

5

Service Area

Counties Served

- Boone
- Leflore
- Holmes
- Washington
- New London
- Holmes

6

6

What do we mean by Culturally Specific?

African-American culture is a rich and diverse identity that has been shaped by various including African cultures, slavery, slave rebellions, and the Civil Rights Movement.

It encompasses a wide range of aspects such as politics, economics, language, music, hairstyles, fashion, dance, religion, cuisine, and worldview.

Our House caters specifically to the unique needs and experiences of African-American victims of interpersonal violence. However, we never deny services anyone who is in need of help.

7

7

800-222-8000

TIME TO SPEAK UP IS NOW

8

8

CHILD ABUSE

Section 43-21-105 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated

Abused Child
means a child whose parent, guardian or custodian or any person responsible for his care or support, whether legally obligated to do so or not, is present or allowed to be absent, upon the following:

- sexual abuse
- sexual exploitation
- sex trafficking
- emotional abuse
- mental injury
- nonaccidental physical injury
- other maltreatment



9

9

Who is considered a child?

A person who has not reached their 18th birthday, or a youth 18 years or older if currently in the custody of Child Protection Services.



10


10

RECOGNIZING ABUSE

emotional/psychological, criminal, verbal, threats, victim, sexual, physical, assault, financial

- physical abuse
- neglect
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse

- abandonment
- parental substance use
- human trafficking



11

11

Defining Abuse

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse is a nonaccidental physical injury to a child caused by a parent, caregiver, or other person responsible for a child and can include punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting (with a hand, stick, strap, or other object), burning, or otherwise causing physical harm.



12

12



NEGLECT

Failure of a parent or other caregiver to provide for a child's basic needs

- Physical (e.g., failure to provide necessary food or shelter, lack of appropriate supervision)
- Medical (e.g., failure to provide necessary medical or mental health treatment, withholding medically indicated treatment from children with life-threatening conditions)
- Educational (e.g., failure to educate a child or attend to special education needs)
- Emotional (e.g., inattention to a child's emotional needs, failure to provide psychological care, permitting a child to alcohol or other drugs)

13

13




SEXUAL

Activities by a parent or other caregiver such as fondling a child's genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials

* The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or interfamilial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.


14

14



EMOTIONAL

A pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth. This may include constant criticism, threats, or rejection as well as withholding love, support, or guidance.



15

15

CHILD SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance
- Has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parent's attention
- Has learning problems (or difficulty concentrating) that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological factors
- Is always restless, as though preparing for something bad to happen & looks afraid in supervision
- Is overly compliant, passive, or withdrawn
 - Comes to school or other activities with a sad face, and does not want to go home or is reluctant to be around a particular person
- Declines in treatment



16

16

What Are We Looking At?

During this time frame, Washington County has a higher rate of reports for child abuse than the state average, specifically for neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse.

Report Type	Count	County Rate	State rate
Children Subject of Maltreatment Reports	529	41.6 per 10K	47.7 per 10K
Children Subject to Maltreatment Investigations	514	40.4 per 10K	45.9 per 10K
Reports of Neglect	101	7.9 per 10K	6.8 per 10K
Reports of Physical Abuse	19	1.5 per 10K	1.0 per 10K
Reports of Sexual Abuse	27	2.1 per 10K	1.3 per 10K
Reports of Other Abuse	14	1.1 per 10K	1.1 per 10K

17

WHAT CAN I DO??

REPORT!

18

BREAK

19


Mandated Reporting

Am I responsible for reporting suspected abuse?

20

Who is to report child abuse and neglect?

*Any attorney, physician, dentist, intern, resident, nurse, psychologist, social worker, family protection worker, family protection specialist, child caregiver, minister, law enforcement officer, public or private school employee or **any other person having reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a neglected child or an abused child**, shall cause an oral report to be made immediately by telephone or otherwise and followed as soon thereafter as possible with a written report.



21

21

Who do I call?

24/7 Hotline
1-800-222-8000

Online
MDCPS website
<https://reportabuse.mdcps.ms.gov/>



22

22

What will I be asked?

- Description of harm to child
- Contact information
- Relationship of person causing harm to child
- Detail, extent, and circumstances of child's injury
- Previous maltreatment
- Primary language and whether family is of Native American heritage
- Known dangers for child protection staff who will visit home
- General function and special needs of family and children
- Child's current location and where child is in imminent harm
- Information on relatives or others close to family who can assist in the child's safe care

The Intake Specialist answering your call will ask questions to collect pertinent information related to the child's identity and household members, a full address for the family, and details related to the alleged maltreatment of the child.



23

23

What if I'm unsure?

Helping the intake team understand what you know about the family's situation, and your concerns during the reporting process is key. Be sure to express what lead you to believe the parent or caregiver may be significant or reasonable to file the report for need the needs of their children.

Physical discipline, including spanking, performed on a child by a parent, guardian, or custodian in a reasonable manner shall not be deemed abuse.



24

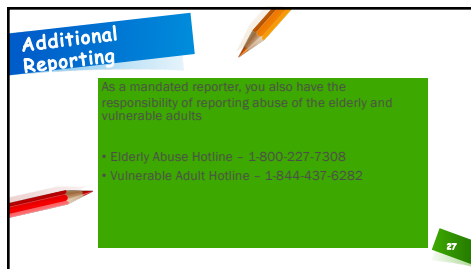
24



25



26




27



28

BUREAU OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE



The Bureau of Victim Assistance (BOVA) was established to provide statewide assistance to victims of crime. The journey through the justice system can be traumatic, especially for victims of crime. BOVA offers victims and their loved ones a single point of contact they can turn to before and after their offender is sentenced.

1-800-829-4766
<https://www.ago.state.ms.us/divisions/bureau-of-victim-assistance/>

29

Resources

Our House Inc.
 ourhousevoices.com
Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services
 mdcps.ms.gov
Mississippi Attorney General's Office
 www.ago.state.ms.us

30

Thank You!



OUR HOUSE, INC.
 Cassandra K. Rule, MSW
 Culturally Specific Domestic Violence Program Director
 (662) 332-5683
 crule@ourhousevoices.com

31

REFERENCES

Tracy, N. (2018a). Signs of child neglect and how to report child neglect. Retrieved from <https://www.healthyplace.com/abuse/child-abuse-information/signs-of-child-neglect-and-how-to-report-child-neglect>

Tracy, N. (2018b). What is child neglect? Retrieved from <https://www.healthyplace.com/abuse/child-abuse-information/what-is-child-neglect>

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2019). What is child abuse and neglect? Recognizing the signs and symptoms. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect. (2023). Who is legally required to report child abuse and neglect? Retrieved from <https://www.mdcps.ms.gov/programs/reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect>

32