

Child Protective Services

The Child Protective Services Law, Title 23 Pa.C.S.A. Chapter 63, at §6303 defines:

☞ "**Child protective services.**" Those services and activities provided by the Department of Public Welfare and each county agency for child abuse cases.

☞ The term "**child abuse**" shall mean any of the following:

- (i) Any recent act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes nonaccidental serious physical injury to a child under 18 years of age.
- (ii) An act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes nonaccidental serious mental injury to or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age.
- (iii) Any recent act, failure to act or series of such acts or failures to act by a perpetrator which creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury to or sexual abuse of a child under 18 years of age.
- (iv) Serious physical neglect by a perpetrator constituting prolonged or repeated lack of supervision or the failure to provide the essentials of life, including adequate medical care, which endangers a child's life or development or impairs the child's functioning.

☞ "**Serious physical injury.**" An injury that

- (1) Causes a child severe pain; or
- (2) Significantly impairs a child's functioning, either temporarily or permanently.

☞ "**Serious mental injury.**" A psychological condition, as diagnosed by a physician or licensed psychologist, including the refusal of appropriate treatment, that:

- (1) Renders a child chronically and severely anxious, agitated, depressed, socially withdrawn, psychotic or in reasonable fear that the child's life or safety is threatened; or
- (2) Seriously interferes with a child's ability to accomplish age-appropriate developmental and social tasks.

☞ "**Sexual abuse or exploitation.**" 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 any simulation of any sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction, including photographing, videotaping, computer depicting or filming, of any sexually explicit conduct or the rape, sexual assault, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, aggravated indecent assault, molestation, incest, indecent exposure, prostitution, statutory sexual assault or other form of sexual exploitation of children.