

Case Scenarios

1. There is a strained relationship between a father and his 15-year-old daughter. The father has set 11:00 p.m. as the curfew for his daughter. The daughter returns home at 1:00 am, the third time in the past two weeks that she has missed the curfew. After each incident, the emotion between father and daughter has been escalating. This time, the father has been drinking and he is enraged. The father chases his daughter but cannot catch her. In desperation, he picks up a chair and hurls it at her and she ducks down so that the chair narrowly misses her head. The legs of the chair are implanted in the drywall-constructed wall.

Is this suspected child abuse?

If so, what type and why? If not, why?

What action would you take?

2. A friend complains to you about her neighbors – a man, woman, and their six-year-old son. The friend fears that the young boy is not properly cared for. The man and woman yell loudly all the time and the boy appears unhappy and unclean. She doesn't think that he gets to school regularly, and he appears to be out-of-control and gets on his parents' nerves. The friend tells you about an incident when the son was three years old. The father grabbed the boy and hung him out of their third story apartment. He threatened to drop the boy if he did not behave. The boy was heavy and the father nearly lost his grip on the child when the mother grabbed the child and brought him back into the apartment.

Is this suspected child abuse?

If so, what type and why? If not, why?

What action would you take?

Case Scenarios (continued)

3. A colleague reports to you that a child in your program has been spending time alone with a known child molester. The mother has been asking the molester to baby-sit on Friday nights since she cannot find another sitter. You believe that the mother knows that the man has molested other children and has not received treatment. You do not have any reason to believe that the child in your program has been molested.

Is this suspected child abuse?

If so, what type and why? If not, why?

What action would you take?

4. A parent tries to obtain drugs through offering her daughter for sex. There are no offers.

Is this suspected child abuse?

If so, what type and why? If not, why?

What action would you take?