

Definition of Emotional Abuse

Any act or failure to act by a perpetrator that causes non-accidental serious mental injury to a child under 18 years of age.

Definition of Emotional Abuse (continued)

Serious mental injury is a psychological condition, as diagnosed by a physician or licensed psychologist, including the refusal of appropriate treatment, that:

- Renders a child chronically and severely anxious, agitated, depressed, socially withdrawn, psychotic or causes reasonable fear that the child's life or safety is threatened; or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