



TEN-4 BRUISING RULE

Kids are kids, and sometimes they play in ways that result in minor cuts and bruises on bony areas of the body, like knees and foreheads. However, there are areas of the body where any signs of bruising should be red flags for possible abuse, especially for children 4 years old and younger.

If you suspect that a child is undergoing abuse, it's critical to report it—and to continue reporting each separate incidence if it continues to recur. Each report you make is helpful in learning what is going on in the family. The more information you can provide, the better the chance of the child getting the help they need and deserve.

If you think a child is being abused, call the DCFS hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE (252-2873). In non-emergency situations, you can also make a report online: dcfsonlinereporting.dcf.illinois.gov.

Shared in part from DCFS Facebook page

TEN-4 BRUISING RULE

Kids are kids, and sometimes they play in ways that result in minor cuts, scrapes and bruises. These minor injuries are often found on bony areas of the body like knees, shins, elbows and foreheads. However, there are other types of bruises that should be a red flag for possible abuse.

For children 4 years of age and younger, bruising in these areas are cause for concern and need to be reported.

TORSO
EARS
NECK
4 YEARS OR YOUNGER



OR ANY BRUISING ANYWHERE, if the baby is not yet pulling up or taking steps

TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT
CALL 1.800.25.ABUSE (252-2873)

or report it online <https://dcfsonlinereporting.dcf.illinois.gov/> in non-emergency situations



312.814.6800
www2.illinois.gov/DCFS

DCFS
Department of Children & Family Services

Our offices will be closed on December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday. The staff of Advocacy Network for Children wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December
24 & 25 Office closed
January
01 Office closed
14 Noon Networking - Quincy
18 Office closed

We currently have the following volunteer needs:

- Happy Bear Presentations
- CASA Volunteers
- Fundraising
- Mailings

If you would like to help, please contact our office at 217-223-2272.

Our agency could not continue its mission of advocating for children without your help. You can help by:

- Monetary Donation
- ANC Foundation Donation
- Office Supply Donation

LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES OF ABUSE

Children who have been abused or neglected have a greater risk of suffering mental health rather than physical health damage. Emotional and psychological abuse and neglect deny the child the tools needed to cope with stress, and to learn new skills to become resilient, strong, and successful. As a result, a child who is maltreated or neglected may have a wide range of reactions and may even become depressed or develop suicidal, withdrawn, or violent behavior. As the child gets older, he/she may use drugs or alcohol, try to run away, refuse discipline, or abuse others. As an adult, he/she may develop marital and sexual difficulties, depression, or suicidal behavior.

Not all children who are abused have severe reactions. Usually the younger the child, the longer the abuse continues, and the closer the child's relationship with the abuser, the more serious the mental health effects will be. A close relationship with a very supportive adult can increase resiliency, reducing some of the impact.

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Adams County CASA swore in its latest group of CASA volunteers on November 17th. Pictured (left to right) Denise Albsmeyer, Rick Goodwin, Fae Jones, Dennis Senter, Karen Sedovic, and Shirley Swinford. Also sworn in via Zoom was Grace Crowcroft.



Welcome and thank you for all you do for the children in our community!

THANK YOU

Thank you to Peoples Prosperity Bank who donated over \$250.00 from their pumpkin painting contest. Bank staff painted pumpkins and staff and customers could "vote" for their favorite pumpkin with a cash donation. The winner was Franky Frankenstein! What a fun way to enjoy the holiday and donate to a local not-for-profit.



We are excited to announce that the agency received a \$30,000.00 grant from the Marion Gardner Jackson Charitable Trust. This capital improvement grant will be used to install new carpet in both the upper and lower levels of our Quincy office and for a new roof. Carpet is set to be installed in the next month or so and the roof will be replaced in the spring.

Please see page 3 for the agency's response to COVID-19

**** When shopping at Amazon Smile, choose Advocacy Network for Children as your charity and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to us!****



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217.223.2272 (phone) 217.223.6791 (fax)

www.advonet.org



AGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Amid the ongoing concerns over COVID-19, our agency continues to take steps to keep our staff, volunteers and clients safe. Staff began returning to the office in shifts on June 1st with changes put in place. However, when COVID-19 cases increased in Adams County, staff returned to working from home on July 27th. When needed, a limited number of staff will be at the office at various times for meetings or interviews.

Our Children's Advocacy Center staff continue to do forensic interviews. Safety precautions are in place for our staff, MDT members and children and families and PPE supplies are available if needed. Attendance at court hearings is done at the direction of the respective county. Staff is doing follow-up contact with clients to check on their well-being. Mental health providers remain willing to provide mental health services to our clients via telemental health or in person with precautions in place.

Our CASA staff is constantly in touch with its volunteers for assistance and guidance as it relates to child visits via technology and help with case reports. Home visits are being conducted with precautions in place for the safety of all parties. Attendance at juvenile court case hearings are being done at the direction of the respective county. Trainings for new volunteers are being done via Zoom or in locations where appropriate spacing can be made.

We are following all guidelines put into place by our various grantors (both state and federal), the CDC and local and state officials.

We need to remain vigilant and continue to all work together to reduce the spread of this virus. At the same time, with the stress and uncertainty this pandemic is causing families, we fear child abuse cases will go up in the coming months. If you suspect a child is being abused, please call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-2873.

Please visit our website or Facebook page for new or additional updates. Our website also contains a complete list of staff names, phone numbers and office locations.