

# Protecting Tennessee's Children

## CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT SUPPORT GUIDE

### Why This Matters

**Child abuse and neglect** can impact any child in any community. Early awareness and action help **keep children safe**.



### Did you know?

- **Ages 0–6** are most vulnerable
- **95%** know their abuser
- Most abuse occurs in **familiar environments**, like the home
- **Early relationships** and **safe, trusted adults** play a critical role in prevention



### Signs to Look For

#### Physical Abuse:

- Unexplained injuries
- Bruises in different stages
- Avoids contact

#### Emotional Abuse:

- Withdrawn or aggressive
- Fear of caregivers
- Low self-esteem

#### Sexual Abuse:

- Difficulty sitting/walking
- Inappropriate knowledge
- Sudden behavior changes

#### Neglect

- Poor hygiene
- Inadequate clothing/nutrition
- Frequent absences from school
- Untreated medical issues

### Take Action, Report Immediately

#### TN Child Abuse Hotline

1-877-237-0004

#### Online Reporting

[apps.tn.gov/carat](https://apps.tn.gov/carat)

**Emergency: Call 911**

*Tennessee law requires reporting suspected abuse or neglect.*

### How You Can Help

- **Learn** the signs
- **Build** trusting relationships
- **Create** safe environments
- **Support** families
- **Take action** when something feels wrong

### Need Additional Support?



*Awareness & Prevention Coordinator*

**Randi Faulker**

[randi\\_faulkner@signalcenters.org](mailto:randi_faulkner@signalcenters.org)