



Challenging Behaviors
Documentation
Before/After a Report
Legal Considerations
Mitigation

*ACEs

*Attachment Issues

Definitions...

Abuse, Neglect, and/or Household Dysfunction Violence

Substance Dependence

* Mental illness

* Separation or Divorce

* Incarceration

Onstable housing

✤ Loss of a caregiver

Legal definitions of abuse and neglect

•Tennessee law defines this as "suffering from or in immediate danger of suffering from injury, disability, or physical or mental conditions caused by brutality, neglect, other actions, or inactions of parent, relative, guardian or caretaker.." (TCA 37-1-102).

•Virginia law defines abuse and neglect when a child "would be subject to an imminent threat to life or health." (VA Code 16.1-251).

•Tennessee law has multiple levels of criminal charges: injury, imminent danger, or adversely affecting child's health can be a felony or misdemeanor depending on age. (TCA 39-15-401).

•Virginia has two levels of criminal abuse: a class 4 felony (2-10yrs) involving serious injury and a class 6 felony (1-5 yrs) involves a reckless disregard for human life (VA Code 18.2-371.1)



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Examples of abuse and neglect

- Tennesse gives examples in the code section: starvation, dehydration, sex offense, assault, allowing child to be alone with a sex offender (TCA 39-15-401).
- Virginia gives examples in the statute itself of abuse: fracture, burn, disfigurement as well as types of neglect: failure to provide supervision, food, shelter, clothing, medical care, access to firearm (VA Code 18.2-371.1, 16.1-228, 63.2-100, and 22VAC40-705-30)
 - Child in the road unsupervised
 - Children living in a van
 - Child's teeth are so decayed and need replacement
 - Exposing child to drugs, like residue on a bathroom sink
 - Other examples?



Statistics Regarding Prevalence

• Nationally, neglect is the most common form of abuse. Three-fourths (74%) of victims are neglected, 17% are physically abused, 11% are sexually abused, and 0.2% are sex trafficked per the National Children's Alliance

• In substantiated child abuse cases, **76% of children were victimized** by a parent or legal guardian.

ACEs are Traumatic

Food insecurity,
Social Rejection and Bullying,
Racism and Discrimination,
Poverty

* Relational Poverty



ACEs

* Relationships *Secure Attachments *Inner Map * Love * Live * Play * Leard * Parent * Work *Lead



ACEs and ADHD

- In a 2017 study, it was concluded that "Children with ADHD have higher ACE exposure compared with children without ADHD. There was a significant association between ACE score, ADHD, and moderate to severe ADHD. Efforts to improve ADHD assessment and management should consider routinely evaluating for ACEs." (Brown, et al., 2017).
- "ACE and ADHD are also intricately linked. Children with ADHD have higher risks for ACE exposure and those with greater number of ACEs experience more severe ADHD symptoms." (Ghoshal, 2022).
- "Childhood trauma and negative memory bias (ie, remembering bad memories rather than good) also advances the onset, severity, and long-term persistence of ADHD and other mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression." (Ghoshal, 2022).
- Something to consider for educators: "Is this child's difficulty with concentration due to neurodevelopmental factors beyond his/her control or is there something happening in the child's life that is intrusive and making it difficult to pay attention?" (Ghoshal, 2022).

Life's Beauty is Inseparable from its Fragility



Screen Time verses Family Time







More Than 400,000 Children in Foster Care



More Than 400,000 Children in Foster Care

- Frustration
- Sadness
- Loneliness
- Unwanted and unloved
- Unmet Needs



Impulse Control

Executive Functioning



Rational Thinking

Learning



Freeze

Fawn



3. Self-Fulfillment Needs:

- ✤ Self-actualization
- ✤ Creativity
- Fulfilment,
- Morality
- Living your best life

1. Physiological Needs:

- Sleep,
- ✤ Air,
- ✤ Water,
- Food,
- Shelter,
- Clothing
- ✤ Warmth

Safety Needs:

- Resources (money, property)
- Security
- Stability
- ✤ Health

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

2. Psychological Needs:

 Love and Belonging (family, sense of connection, meaningful relationships)

Esteem

- Status
- Respect (self-respect, respect from others)
- Confidence
- ✤ Achievement
- ✤ Recognition

| MASLOW'S H Student is Available to Lo | | rality Creativity, Fulfillment |
|--|---------------|---|
| Positive Classroom Culture Present (positive feedback, time for reflection, encouragement to take risks) | ESTEEM | Confidence, respect, status, self-esteem |
| Forming Relationships (advisory, adult role models, riendship groups, peer relationships) | BELONGING | Sexual intimacy, family, meaningful relationships |
| Emotional and Physical Safety (clear school/class routines, access to counselors/nurse, ok to take risks) | SAFETY | Security of body, health, family, employment, resources, property |
| Basic Needs Are Met eats breakfast, has clean clothing, safe place to o home, able to sleep) | PHYSIOLOGICAL | Water, sleep, food, shelter clothes, breathing, homeosta |

Document your Observations (1 of 3)

- If it wasn't written, it didn't happen.
- Sleeping in class
- Becoming withdrawn
- Same clothing
- Unclean
- Unbrushed hair



Document your Observations (2 of 3)

- Suspicious InjuriesTEN-4 Bruising Rule
 - ✤ <u>T</u>orso
 - ✤ <u>E</u>ars
 - ✤ <u>N</u>eck
 - ✤ <u>4</u> years old and younger



Document your Observations (3 of 3)

Document each concern **Context** *Detail *Date *Pictures Child's permission *****Witness *Avoid Facial Pictures





- School District
- Law Enforcement
- Child Protection Services (CPS)

AFTER REPORTING

- Investigation by multi-disciplinary team including law enforcement, DSS, medical personnel
- Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) do forensic interviews and give support
- Crisis teams to ensure all agencies are aware and resources being provided
- Guardians *ad litem* are attorneys and investigate and represent the child's best interest and are an advocate for child when legal proceedings have begun
- CASAs are volunteers to investigate and also advocate for the child





| Civil cases | Criminal cases |
|---|--|
| ster care for abuse and neglect | Child is charged with things such as truancy, running away, underage possession, destruction of property, assault |
| istody cases between parents, andparents, or other guardians | Parent, guardian, or other family member is charged with a crime |

Legal considerations

• **Custody**: Code of Virginia 20-124.3: Best interests of a child considerations include: age, physical and mental condition of child and parents. Relationships between child and parents, between parents such as unreasonably denying other parent access or ability to cooperate and resolve disputes.

Abuse & Neglect/Foster Care Timeline

Stage 1: Ex parte hearing for emergency removal; review: three days in TN; five days in VA; adjudication, disposition. Reasonable efforts have to be made to prevent removal.

Stage 2: Four-month hearing for foster care review

Stage 3: Five-month hearing for permanency planning. Note that federal law requires reasonable efforts to reunite the child with her parents, guardian or other person standing in loco parentis.

Stage 4: Permanency for children is desired between one year and 14 months. After permanent goal ordered review placement

2014

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- Depression
- > Anxiety
- > Aggression
- Suicide Risks
- Personality Disorders
- Substance Use Disorders
- Health Problems

How Can We Mitigate This?

★ Smile
★ Bright Colors & Positive images
★ DO NOT YELL!
★ School Social Worker

(shameless plug ☺)
★ Flexibility

Sense of Belonging

- Empathy
- Kindness & Compassion
- Unconditional Positive Reg.

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- Positive Culture
- Grading

Adopt Trauma-Free, Non-Violent Language

Instead of

• Let's pull the **trigger** on the project

Instead of

• The **deadline** for the assignment is...

Consider saying:

• Let's launch the project

Consider saying:

• The **due date** for the assignment is...



?? ?? Questions? 9 ??

Please share your own examples and insights on things you have done to mitigate these problems that children face in these situations

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•Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS):

877-237-0004 or online at: https://apps.tn.gov/carat/

Virginia Department of Social
Services (DSS) Child Abuse hotline:
800-552-7096

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