

# JUVENILE PROBATION | SUPERVISION OFFICER BASIC COURSE Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation: Identification | Reporting | Prevention



## PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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**JUVENILE PROBATION | SUPERVISION OFFICER BASIC COURSE**

**ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION: IDENTIFICATION | REPORTING | PREVENTION**

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## INTRODUCTION

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As juvenile justice professionals, we are charged with protecting all juveniles in our care and in fact, we have a legal, professional, ethical, and moral obligation to safeguard them from acts of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This course will discuss the identification, reporting and prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

## OBJECTIVES

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1. Identify abuse, neglect, and exploitation (ANE) and what constitutes each.
2. Examine reporting procedures regarding ANE, including parties who should file reports, timelines, and where reports should be submitted.
3. Outline strategies necessary for the prevention of ANE.

## SECTION I: WHAT IS ANE?

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Juvenile justice professionals are mandated to report Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of juveniles in their care.

- Juveniles in care are at higher risk for experiencing some type of abuse
- ANE may cause mental and physical issues later in life

### | Physical | Serious Physical Abuse

- Physical injury resulting in substantial harm or threat of substantial harm to a juvenile
- Failure to prevent physical injury by another person

#### – Signs of Physical Abuse

- Unexplained injuries
- Location of wounds | Bruises in unusual pattern
- Frequent injuries
- Distinctive marks | Lacerations

#### – Behavioral Indicators

- Frequent complaints of pain without injury
- Aggression
- Disruptive | Destructive behavior
- Passivity | Withdrawal

**| Emotional Abuse**

- Psychological | Emotional injury resulting in observable impairments of growth, development, and psychological functioning
- Allowing | Causing a juvenile to be in a situation which may cause emotional or mental injury
- Typically “verbal” in nature

**– Signs of Emotional Abuse**

- Low self-esteem
- Depressed, particularly around parent or guardian
- Withdrawal

**– Behavioral Indicators**

- Delayed Physical | Emotional development
- Substance Use
- Suicidal Ideation
- Delinquency

Listen to coworkers and their interactions with juveniles. They can emotionally abuse juveniles by:

- Communicating inappropriately
- Using disparaging names
- Mocking
- Using racial slurs when addressing them

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**| Sexual Abuse**

**– Contact**

- Sexual conduct harmful to juvenile’s mental, emotional, or physical welfare
- Failing to make reasonable efforts to prevent sexual abuse of juvenile
- Any sexual act causing sexual organs of one person to contact or penetrate the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of juvenile

**– Non-Contact**

- Any sexual behavior, conduct, harassment, or actions other than those defined as sexual abuse by contact;
- which are exhibited, performed, or simulated in the presence of a juvenile
- Examples | Requesting juvenile to engage in sexual activity, displaying sex organs to juvenile

– Behavioral Indicators

- Nightmares | Trouble sleeping
- Sudden change in appetite
- Overly knowledgeable about sexual terms
- Runaway history
- STIs | Pregnancy
- Frequently in vicinity of particular staff member or juvenile
- Flirting with particular juvenile or staff member

| All sexual contact between staff members and juveniles AND juveniles and other juveniles is PROHIBITED. |

Examples of sexual abuse include:

- Taking pictures of juveniles
- Sending notes and suggesting a relationship in the “free”
- Using | Showing pornography to a juvenile
- Intercourse or any sexual contact with a juvenile

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| Neglect

- Leaving a juvenile in a situation where there is substantial risk of harm, whether housed at home or facility
- Failing to remove a juvenile from a dangerous situation
- Failing to seek medical care | Basic necessities for a juvenile
- Refusing to allow a juvenile to return home

– Behavioral Indicators

- Physical appearance
- Grooming habits
- Depression

– Examples of Neglect in Facility or Detention

- Placing a juvenile in a situation where risk is immediate by either a staff or juvenile
- Failing to conduct room checks
- Falsifying room checks
- Failing to seek medical treatment

**| Exploitation**

- Illegal or improper use of a child or their resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain;
- by an employee, volunteer, or other individual working under the auspices of a department, facility, or program.

**– Examples of Exploitation**

- Allowing a juvenile to complete an activity which normally would cost money
- Human trafficking
- Taking advantage of a juvenile’s abilities for personal gain

**NOTES**

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**SECTION II: REPORTING GUIDELINES**

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All professionals are required to report all allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

– **Professional** | Any individual who is licensed or certified by the state or who is an employee of a facility which is licensed, certified, or operated by the state and who in the normal course of official duties or duties for which a license or certification is required, has direct contact with children.

**Professional examples:**

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ▪ Teachers                               | ▪ Juvenile Probation Officers   |
| ▪ Nurses   Doctors                       | ▪ Juvenile Supervision Officers |
| ▪ Day Care Employees                     | ▪ Community Activities Officers |
| ▪ Reproductive Services Clinic Employees | ▪ Counselors                    |

**Failure to Report** → Class A Misdemeanor or State Jail Felony if abuse is intentionally concealed

**False Report** (against other staff members) → State Jail Felony | Pay legal fees of person accused | \$1000 penalty

**| Where to Report**

- Any Local or State Law Enforcement Agency
- Local Probation Departments
- State Agency | Operates, licenses, certifies, or registers a facility where alleged ANE has occurred
- Agency designated by the court tasked with the responsibility of protecting children

**TJJD**

**1.877.786.7263 Incident Report Center (IRC) | [abuseneglect@tjjd.texas.gov](mailto:abuseneglect@tjjd.texas.gov)**

All serious incidents which occur in a juvenile justice program or program under the jurisdiction of a juvenile board MUST be reported within 24 hours, including:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attempted Escape   Escape</li> <li>▪ Attempted Suicide</li> <li>▪ Suicide</li> <li>▪ Reportable Injuries</li> <li>▪ Juvenile   Juvenile physical assaults</li> <li>▪ Juvenile sexual conduct</li> <li>▪ Alleged ANE                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 24 hours from gaining knowledge of alleged abuse</li> <li>– Report to Law Enforcement also</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Serious Incidents                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 24 hours from gaining knowledge of alleged abuse</li> <li>– Medical documentation to TJJD within 24 hours</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Sexual Abuse   Serious Physical Abuse                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To TJJD immediately, no later than 4 hours</li> <li>– Law Enforcement immediately, no later than 1 hour</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Death                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To TJJD immediate notification, no later than 4 hours: report submitted within 24 hours</li> <li>– Copy of death investigation to TJJD within 10 days of completion</li> <li>– Law Enforcement immediately-no later than 1 hour</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|--|

– **Parent | Guardian** | Must be notified immediately; no later than 24 hours after the following incidents:

- Serious Physical Abuse |    ▪ Sexual Abuse |    ▪ Death

**Incident Report Form** | Accessed on TJJD website | Must be used when filing a report on the website.

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Texas Department of Family and Protective Services | Child Protective Services

1.800.252.5400 | txabusehotline.org

- Allegations which occur in the home
- Allegation occurring at a school not considered JJAEP
- Any other setting of alleged abuse

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**Substance Abuse Treatment Facility**

1.800.832.9623

- Any allegation occurring at a substance abuse treatment facility

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**Local Law Enforcement**

- ALL allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation MUST be reported to your local law enforcement agency

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**First Responder**

- Firsthand knowledge of abuse
- Witness abuse
- MUST follow guidelines with reporting

**Third-Party Responder**

- Reports abuse, but not victim or abuser
- Told about an incident of abuse
- Same rules as first responder

**Tips about reporting**

- You may NOT delegate or rely on another person to make a report.
- YOU are responsible for ensuring report reaches TJJD and local law enforcement.
- If local policy dictates only supervisors complete the Incident Report Form, you MUST complete a written statement and attach to report being submitted.

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**| Internal Investigations**

The Texas Administrative Code mandates any allegation of ANE MUST be investigated. Investigations:

- Must be initiated immediately upon knowledge of an allegation.
- Must follow written policies and procedures of local department, program, or facility regarding investigations
- Completed within 30 days after the initial report to TJJD

Alleged perpetrator will face the following consequences:

- Administrative leave
- Reassigned | No contact with alleged victim, victim’s family, or other juveniles
- Administrative proceedings
- Loss of certification

**NOTES**

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**SECTION III: PREVENTION**

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**| Strategies a department, facility, or agency can implement to prevent ANE**

- Background checks
  - PREA policies | Local policies and procedures
  - Provide training opportunities
  - Consistency
  - Educate juveniles
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**| Protecting Yourself**

- Educate yourself
- Remain professional in the workplace
  - Avoid inappropriate conversations
  - Maintain proper boundaries
  - Avoid showing favoritism
  - Report coworkers of inappropriate behavior

**NOTES**

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**ACTIVITY: WHAT DO YOU DO?**

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Instructions: Read and answer the statements below. Then, read the scenario and answer the related questions.

**Scenario**

- |  |    |       |
|--|----|-------|
| 1. Remain ignorant about any situation of alleged abuse.   | DO | DON'T |
| 2. Encourage an abusive parent to contact a community organization or service for help.  | DO | DON'T |
| 3. Be observant and aware of characteristic signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation as seen in the juvenile and parent.                                | DO | DON'T |
| 4. Make excuses for abuse or ignore the warning characteristics.   | DO | DON'T |
| 5. Be influenced by gossip, second hand information, or your own biases when reporting abusive situations.   | DO | DON'T |
| 6. Become involved and report any alleged incident of child abuse to authorities. The law states if you do so in good faith, you cannot be prosecuted. | DO | DON'T |
| 7. Be afraid to get involved; you may be the one to save a child's life.   | DO | DON'T |

**Donavan**

One of the juveniles you supervise, Donovan, is waiting to have a hearing to be released back home with his mother. You go to see him in detention and when you arrive, you see he has a black eye, which he did not have when he first arrived. He is normally cheerful and animated with you, but today he seems depressed and anxious. You question Donovan about his black eye and he refuses to tell you how he was injured. You continue to question Donovan, but you cannot get any information from him. He finally tells you he is not telling you anything because he is afraid of what will happen to him. You persist with questioning Donovan and ask if it was a staff member or another juvenile who assaulted him and he remains quiet.

Are there any “red flags” in this scenario with Donovan? If so, what are they?

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Would this incident need to be reported? If so, to what entity?

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What information must you include in your report?

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How would you make sure Donovan is safe from future incidents of abuse while in detention?

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**FINAL THOUGHTS**

- You **MUST NOT** remain silent about ANE of juveniles in our care.
- You are mandated to report all allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in an effort to keep all juveniles safe.
- Remaining professional and maintaining appropriate boundaries is key when protecting **YOURSELF** from becoming the subject of an investigation.



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