



## **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT STATEMENT**

**It is the position of CIS & H Inc, to make sure staff are familiar and comply with child abuse and neglect requirements (Comar 14.31.06.14) and actively ensure the provision of a safe environment for all the residents at all times. It is mandatory for all staff to read and understand the various types of child abuse and neglect and make sure they adhere to them.**

**Child abuse** is the non accidental physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) as a result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting (with a hand, stick, strap, or other object), burning, or otherwise harming a child regardless of whether it is intended to hurt the child.

**Neglect** is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs. Failure to provide necessary food or shelter, or lack of appropriate supervision, failure to provide necessary medical or mental health treatment, failure to educate a child or attend to special education needs, failure to provide psychological care, or permitting the child to use alcohol or other drugs.

**Sexual abuse** includes activities such as fondling a child's genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials. It is the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.

**Emotional abuse** (or psychological abuse) is a pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth. This may include constant criticism, threats, or rejection, as well as withholding love, support, or guidance. Emotional abuse is often difficult to prove and, therefore, child protective services may not be able to intervene without evidence of harm or mental injury to the child. Emotional abuse is almost always present when other forms are identified.

**Abandonment** is a form of neglect. In general, a child is considered to be abandoned when the staff's whereabouts are unknown, the child has been left alone in circumstances where the child suffers serious harm, or the staff has failed to maintain contact with the child or provide reasonable support for a specified period of time.

**Substance abuse** is an element of child abuse or neglect. Circumstances that are considered abuse or neglect in some States include: exposure of a child to harm of an illegal drug or other substance, selling, distributing, or giving illegal drugs or alcohol to a child and use of a controlled substance by a caregiver that impairs the caregiver's ability to adequately care for the child.

I acknowledge having read and understood my responsibility vis-à-vis the children I work with and the state requirement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

