

Child Physical Abuse Slide Show

If you are watching this and have been charged, or you suspect you may be charged, with child physical abuse, you are in danger of losing your freedom, your family and your children.

The physical mistreatment of a child is a felony that is punishable with prison sentences of up to 6 years. While the Innocence Legal Team knows that parental abuse is rare, as experts in the field we also know that even false allegations can ruin the lives of an entire family.

That is why our team of attorneys, investigators and medical experts urge you to protect yourself and the facts of your case by **not** speaking with anyone except an attorney who specializes in child abuse.

Interviews: Refuse to meet with investigators from the District Attorney's office, the police or Child Protective Services unless you have an attorney with you. Police investigators have extensive training in aggressive interrogation tactics. Your urge to tell the truth or what you know will be used by investigators to prove your guilt, not your innocence.

Pretext Phone Calls: Do not speak with anyone by phone. The police may have a family member call to coerce you into revealing information or apologizing for something you did not do. The caller may even offer to drop all charges if you "just" admit what you did and apologize.

Search and Seizure: Do not interfere with any efforts by the police to search your home, office or car.

Why These Cases are So Complicated

Child physical abuse cases are difficult to prepare and present to a jury for many reasons. The charges themselves are so ugly that few people believe it is possible to make up such accusations.

The fundamental problem is discerning what actually happened to a child, what constitutes the real evidence, and then what the facts mean. The lack of witnesses to the alleged acts is the first complication. Like the police who will use your statements to prove guilt, the prosecutor's attorneys and child advocacy experts are predisposed to interpret any evidence as proof of guilt—your guilt. Having the medical research and data available on child physical trauma allows our legal teams to separate a witness's opinion from fact and, most important, to educate the jury.

Teachers, doctors, nurses and other professionals who work with children have become mandated reporters as required by law. They most likely have had no training in the symptoms of abuse, but are expected nonetheless to file reports with

the police or Child Protective Services. That is one reason a child who goes to school with unexplained bruises or frequent injuries may be reported as a possible victim of child abuse. That report, without any other substantiation, is enough for Child Protective Services to remove children from their homes.

Once in custody, the children are interrogated repeatedly, asked leading questions and eventually learn what their interrogators want to hear, whether or not any of it is true. There is no evidence that such interrogation, along with dolls, puppets or drawings used to prompt the children, are truthful. In fact, research confirms that information given under such methods is unreliable at best and most likely untrue.

There are many reasons why all children or infants with bruises or injuries are not victims of abuse and the Innocence Legal Team understands this better than any other firm. Children do have accidents; they fall; they can have illnesses or diseases that makes them susceptible to internal injuries, bruising and broken bones.

They can be lead by authority figures to make statements or tell stories that are false. And “experts” whose testimony is shaped by misguided theories and dangerous personal biases can do more harm to children then protect them. Our teams have the technology and resources to access the scientific studies to prove that all children are not physically abused—and that you are innocent.

Your best recourse if falsely accused of child physical abuse is a well-prepared defense strategy that is based on the evidence of your case and the scientific data to explain what really happened to the jury. An attorney who does not know that there is research to prove your innocence may rely on your accepting a plea bargain. An attorney that has little experience in this very specialized area of law and without the resources of medical experts, investigators and forensic scientists may also rely on a plea bargain to settle your case.

While a plea bargain is an option, it should never be your only option, especially if you hope to return to your home and family.