

Annexure 2 – Indicators that a child is at risk of harm

The following signs are a useful guide for determining when a child is or may be at risk of some level of harm. The list below is not exhaustive and each adult should use their own judgment in determining whether a child's behaviour, appearance or demeanour warrants a concern that they are at risk of harm.

Signs of physical abuse

- Serious bruising, scratches, burns, scalds
- A child's explanation of an injury is inconsistent with the injury itself
- There is a family history of violence
- The child is exposed to domestic violence

Signs of sexual abuse

- Child describes sexual acts
- Child shows sexual knowledge or behaviour that is inappropriate for their age
- Pregnancy
- Injuries to the genital area or sexually transmitted infections
- Child receives gifts or money without reasonable explanations

Signs of psychological harm

- Anxiety or depression
- Feelings of worthlessness
- Extreme attention seeking behaviour
- Persistent running away from home
- Risk taking behaviour, self-harm, attempted suicide
- Eating disorders

Signs that basic needs are not being met

- Poor hygiene
 - Scavenging or stealing food
 - Low weight
 - Untreated physical issues
-