Checklist for Use in Suspected Cases of Deliberate Burn Injuries of Children
Adapted from the U.S. Department of Justice
Portable Guides to Investigating Child Abuse: Burn Injuries in Child Abuse
(May 1997)

☐ Have you contacted the Child Protection Team (if in hospital)?
☐ Have you contacted DSS (if in the community)?
☐ Where was the primary caretaker at the time of the incident?
☐ Where is the burn injury located on the child’s body?
☐ How serious is the burn?
☐ Is the burn a wet contact burn or a dry contact burn?
☐ If the burn appears to have been caused by a dry source of heat, what is the shape of
  the burn and what object does it resemble?
☐ If the burn was produced by a hot liquid, was the child dipped or fully immersed?
☐ What does the line of demarcation look like?
☐ Are there any splash burns present?
☐ How symmetrical are the lines of immersion if stocking or glove patterns are present?
☐ Is toilet training, soiling, or wetting an issue?
☐ Have you recorded information concerning the child’s age, height, degree of
  development and coordination; location of fixtures; temperature and depth of water;
  weight of burn object, etc.?
☐ Have you compared the burn injury with the area of sparing?
☐ Was the child in a state of flexion indicating resistance?

Examples of flexion on a child’s body include:
  ☐ Folds in the abdomen
  ☐ Calf against back of thigh
  ☐ Arms tightened and held firmly against body or folded against body
  ☐ Thighs against abdomen
  ☐ Head against shoulder
  ☐ Legs crossed, held tightly together