

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

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- 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