

## 6 MAJOR TYPES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MALTREATMENT

*A repeated pattern or extreme incidents of the conditions described in this table. Such conditions convey that the child is worthless, flawed, unloved, endangered, or only valuable in meeting someone else's needs*

**SPURNING** (hostile, rejecting / degrading): includes verbal and nonverbal caregiver acts. Examples include

- Belittling, degrading and other non-physical forms of overt hostility.
- Shaming and / or ridiculing the child for showing normal emotions such as grief, sorrow, affection
- Consistently singling out one child to criticise and punish, perform most of the household chores, and receive fewer rewards.

**TERRORISING** includes caregiver behaviour that threatens or is likely to physically hurt, kill or abandon the child; or place the child, the child's loved ones or cherished objects and /or pets in dangerous situations. Examples include:

- Placing the child in unpredictable chaotic circumstances
- Placing the child in recognisably dangerous situations
- Setting rigid, unrealistic expectations with the threat of penalty if not met
- Threatening or perpetrating violence against the child
- Threatening or perpetrating violence against the child's loved ones, cherished objects, pets.

**ISOLATING:** Caregiver acts that consistently deny the child opportunity to meet needs for interacting or communicating with peers or adults inside or outside of the home. Examples include:

- Confining the child or placing unreasonable limitations on the child's freedom of movement within his or her environment.
- Placing unreasonable limitations restrictions on interactions with peers or adults in the community.

**EXPLOITATION / CORRUPTION:** includes care giver acts that encourage the child to develop inappropriate behaviours (e.g. self destructive, anti-social, criminal, deviant or other maladaptive behaviours). Examples include:

- Modelling, permitting or encouraging antisocial behaviour (sexual acts, prostitution, criminal activity, substance abuse, violence or corruption of others)
- Modelling, permitting or encouraging developmentally inappropriate behaviour e.g. parentification, infantilization, living the parent's unfulfilled dreams)
- Causing abandonment of developmentally appropriate autonomy e.g over-involvement, intrusiveness, dominance (allowing little or no opportunity to support the child's views, feelings, wishes, micromanaging the child's life)
- Restricting or interfering in cognitive development

**DENYING EMOTIONAL RESSPONSIVENESS (ignoring)** care giver acts that ignore the child's attempts and needs to interact (failing to express affection, caring and love for the child and show no emotions during interactions with the child. Examples include:

- Being detached and uninvolved through either incapacity or lack of motivation
- Interacting only when absolutely necessary
- Failing to express affection, caring and love for the child

**MENTAL HEALTH, MEDICAL, AND EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT:** unwarranted caregiver acts that ignore, refuse or allow, or fail to provide the necessary treatment for the mental health, medical, educational problems or needs for the child. Examples include:

- Ignoring the need, failing or refusing to allow or provide treatment for serious emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- Ignoring the need, failing or refusing to allow or provide treatment for serious health problems or needs of the child.
- Ignoring the need, failing or refusing to allow or provide treatment / services for serious educational problems or needs of the child.