

PHYSICAL ABUSE

ADULTS



What is physical abuse?

The non-accidental infliction of physical force, which results in pain, injury or impairment.

Types of physical abuse



- assault, hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, hair-pulling, biting, pushing
- rough handling
- scalding and burning
- physical punishments
- inappropriate or unlawful use of restraint
- making someone purposefully uncomfortable (e.g. opening a window and removing blankets)
- involuntary isolation or confinement
- misuse of medication (e.g. over-sedation)
- forcible feeding or withholding food
- unauthorised restraint, restricting movement (e.g. tying someone to a chair)

Possible indicators of physical abuse in adults



- no explanation for injuries or inconsistency with the account of what happened
- injuries are inconsistent with the person's lifestyle
- bruising, cuts, welts, burns and/or marks on the body or loss of hair in clumps
- frequent injuries
- unexplained falls
- subdued or changed behaviour in the presence of a particular person
- signs of malnutrition
- failure to seek medical treatment or frequent changes of GP

Your Parish Safeguarding Officer is: