STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 323-2888

October 10, 1980

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-111-80

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: BROCHURE - "STOP! DON'T HURT ME!"

REFERENCE:

The American Humane Association in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Social Services have developed the attached informational brochure for children and youth in the Denver metropolitan area, entitled "Stop! Don't Hurt Me!" It is being distributed through schools, youth agencies and libraries.

With only three minor modifications, the American Humane can make the printing modifications to adapt this pamphlet for use by your department and supply them for $7 per 100 in lots of 1,000 plus postage.

The American Humane Association suggests the three minor changes as follows:

(1) On the first panel, change the copy to read "Questions children ask about child abuse and neglect in California" -- or in the name of your county;

(2) On the third panel the copy should read, "In California over 87,700 reports..." and

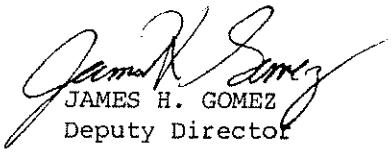
(3) On the fifth panel, modifications can be made to identify your 24-hour emergency response telephone number or a community number and brief indicator of who and when to call. (If more than one number or change is required here, we suggest you either order 1,000 copies for each community or leave a blank space to stamp in local addresses and numbers.)

If you wish to take advantage of this outstanding brochure, amend your attached copy of the brochure accordingly, and enclose with a letter specifying quantity desired with payment to:

The American Humane Association
Child Protection Division
5351 South Roslyn Street
Englewood, Colorado 80111
Attn: Sheila Carlson

Should you desire additional information, write to Albert Colon, Chief of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, 744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or telephone (916) 323-2888.

Sincerely,



JAMES H. GOMEZ
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA

Attachment (One to each county only)

What Is Child Abuse and Neglect?

Child Abuse happens when a parent or guardian physically harms a child. **Child Neglect** happens when a parent or guardian does not provide enough food, clothing or shelter to keep the child healthy. The child who is abused could be any age from birth to 18 years old.

Child Abuse does not include normal punishment. It does include punishment that results in bruises, burns, cuts or other serious injuries.

Child Neglect includes always being "made fun of" at home — or being locked in a room — or not being allowed to attend school.

Child Abuse and Neglect also includes sexual abuse, when a parent or guardian touches or hurts a sexual or private part of a child's body by threats or force. It is not the child's fault but the child often feels guilty afterwards.

What is a guardian?

A guardian is an adult other than the parent who takes care of the child. A guardian might be a grandparent, stepparent or a friend of a parent.

Why do adults hurt children?

- Sometimes it is because the adult was hurt when he or she was a child.
- Sometimes it is because the person has other problems that upset him or her.
- Sometimes it is because the person drinks too much alcohol or takes too many drugs.
- Sometimes it is because the adult does not understand children.

There are many reasons. Each problem is different, but all of these adults need help.

Does it happen to many children?

Yes. More than 600,000 cases of child neglect and child abuse were recorded nationally in 1978. In Colorado, over 5,000 reports of neglect and abuse were received in one year.

If I am abused or neglected is it my fault?

No! Child abuse happens because someone cannot control an emotion or feeling. **It is not your fault!**

Will I have to leave my home if I
abused or neglected?

If your life is in danger you might
someone else's home for a while. Mo
are returned to their own families or
to leave them at all.

I know my parents will be angry if
reports that I'm being abused or n
Who will protect me from their ang

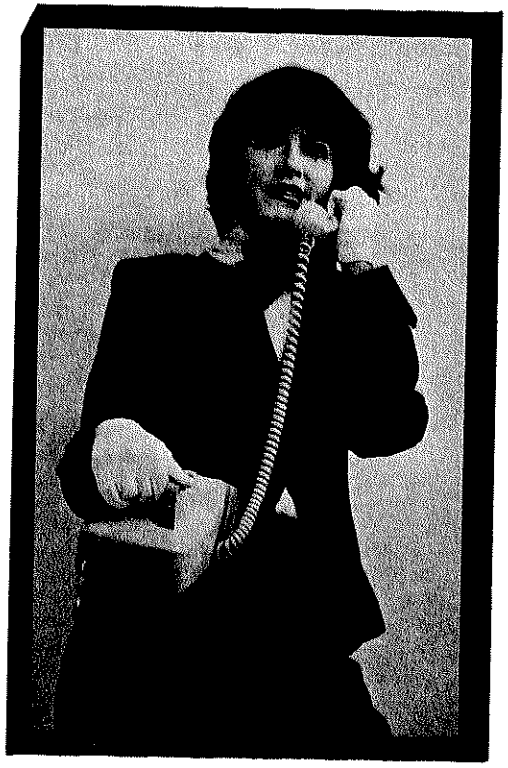
Do not try to stop their anger by
Child Protective Services will do every
sible to help you. They will arrange fo
ing, day care, a crisis nursery, me
—whatever is necessary to keep you f
hurt again.

Will my parents go to jail?

Going to jail is not the usual answer
the problem. Most parents are allowe
their home and are helped there. But
be helped and the problem must sto

Can a person who abuses children
to stop the abuse?

Yes. But first, someone must report t
Then help can begin.



Who should I call when I need help?

Call the **Child Abuse Hot Line.** The number is:

893-6113

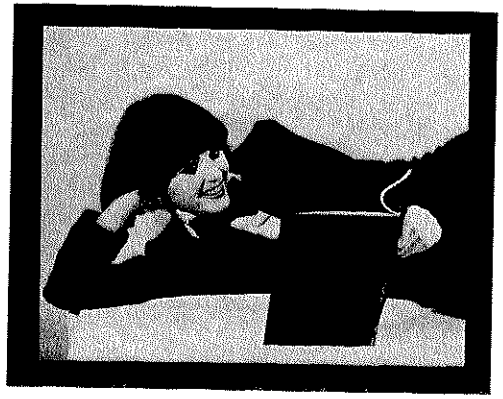
The **Child Abuse Hot Line** is part of the Family Crisis Center. They are on duty 24 hours every day. You can call that number any time for help. They will put you in touch with the right people.

Do I have to tell them my name?

No. You can just ask questions and get advice without telling anyone your name. But, if you want any action to be taken to protect you or help your parent or guardian, you will have to give your name and location. Then a social worker will come to see you and listen to your problem.

What if I am afraid to call?

Talk to a teacher, doctor, friend's mother or other adult who can help you or call for you.



Sometimes it helps to read a book about other children like you who managed to get help. Look for these books at your school or public library.

Anderson, Mary. *Step on a Crack.* Sarah keeps having a nightmare in which she kills her mother. Grade 7 up.
Bauer, M. *Foster Child.* Renny is afraid of her foster father because he wants to touch her. Grade 7 up.
Bradbury, Bianca. *Those Traver Kids.* Terry and Dan try to protect their younger brother and sister from their stepfather. Grade 6 up.
Greene, Bette. *The Summer of My German Soldier.* Patty risks being beaten by her father when she helps a German prisoner escape during World War II. Grade 6 up.
Hunt, Irene. *The Lottery Rose.* Georgie must learn to forget the beatings he suffered from his mother's boyfriend. Grade 5 up.
Rabe, Berneice. *Rass.* Rass is sure his father will stop beating him if he can prove he is a man. Grade 5 up.
Roberts, Willo D. *Don't Hurt Laurie!* Laurie must decide whether to tell the truth about her bruises and cuts. Grade 5 up.
Smith, Doris B. *Tough Chauncey.* Chauncey thinks he has to be a bully to survive the abuse he gets from his grandfather. Grade 5 up.

Produced by:
The American Humane Association, 5351 S Roslyn Street, Englewood 80111
With support from:
The Piton Foundation, Denver, Colorado

Developed by **Heather McNeil**
Photographs by **Mike Badgett**

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Questions Children
CHILD ABUSE AND
In The D