



**Family &
Community Services**
Community Services



NSW Police Force

NSW Joint Investigation Response Teams (JIRT) Physical Abuse Criteria*

Physical Abuse cases are referred to JIRT where they involve:

Current severe or serious injury (see table below) to a child under the age of 16 years which is:

- Unexplained or inconsistent with the explanations provided and
- Is inflicted (non-accidental) or suspicious and
- Is caused by another person aged 10 years or over, and

consideration should also be given to a history of recurrent bruising or injury. The presence of one or more injuries does not automatically denote a referral to the JRU. You must consider the above criteria **and** the level of severity of the injuries/indicators listed below. The JRU retains a discretion to accept cases raising child protection concerns for young persons 16 – 17 years of age.

JIRT Injury Guide table

| Category of Injury | Indicators or markers of severe and serious injury |
|---------------------------|--|
| SOFT TISSUE INJURY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious bruising/Severe soft tissue injury in a child who is not independently mobile • Serious multiple bruises on any child/young person (may appear with different colourings, from red to green) • Bruising or tiny multiple haemorrhages (petechiae), abrasions/lacerations/incisions, particularly to a child's face, neck, ears or scalp, or any other body part, in a child not able to walk or pull themselves to standing position, • Pattern bruising such as slap marks, belt marks, bite marks, marks made with a looped cord or other object marks on any child/you person • Bruising in unusual locations e.g. the back, buttocks or genitals and the abdomen |
| HEAD INJURY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skull fracture • Intracranial injury: Subdural haemorrhage • Subarachnoid haemorrhage • Brain injury including swelling or bleeding into the brain Retinal haemorrhages (bleeding into the back of the eye) |
| FRACTURES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any fracture in a child or young person who is not mobile • Any unexplained fracture • Multiple fractures of varying ages • Fractures accompanied by other injuries (brain, abdomen, lungs, heart) |
| BURNS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact burns • Scalds, including immersion in hot liquid |
| INTERNAL ORGAN INJURY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any injury to the following organs: Liver; Pancreas, Spleen; Kidneys/bladder, Adrenals, Bowel, Heart. Lung |
| OTHER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immersion injuries e.g. near drowning in bath • Suffocation and recurrent apnoea • Attempt Strangulation • Injury as a result of the fabricated illness • Ingestion of poisons/substances/medications • Female Genital Mutilation |

* Endorsed by JIRT SMG 7/12/2015 for use on a pilot basis and review at the JIRT SMG meeting in June 2016. Please notify your agency's JRU manager of any issues with application of the criteria.

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