Institutional Abuse

PREVENTION (CAREGIVERS)

Institutional abuse is when a child or adult who is under the care of an organization is abused (emotionally, physically, or sexually).

This type of abuse is unique in that it occurs by programs and organizations, or their staff, who have been trusted to care for individuals.

Examples of institutions may include, but are not limited to:

- Medical care facilities
- Foster care homes
- Shelters
- Churches
- Group homes
- Nursing homes
- Residential treatment facilities

This type of abuse occurs when there are poor or inadequate standards of care, poor practices by staff, and inappropriate oversight or management of the services.

Institutional abuse can be divided into three categories:

OVERT ABUSE

Any form of abuse by an employee, guardian, or foster parent against a person under the care of that institution or organization. This includes emotional, physical, or sexual abuse.

PROGRAM ABUSE

When an institution or organization operates below acceptable conditions or misuses its power or responsibility in order to change behavior.

SYSTEM ABUSE

When an entire care system is stretched beyond capacity, and causes maltreatment or abuse as a result of inadequate resources.

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