

## MANDATED REPORTER ONLINE TRAINING

### Emotional Abuse Definition FAQs

#### **How is this definition both similar and different from other types of maltreatment?**

As in physical abuse, there must be harm to the child, and who caused the harm is irrelevant. As in neglect, there is a failure to provide necessary care: the parent, guardian or legal custodian has to neglect, refuse to or be unable to obtain necessary treatment or take steps to ameliorate the symptoms. This implies that the parent is aware of the condition and still does not act to provide necessary care for the child. Also as in cases of neglect, the failure to act must be for reasons other than poverty.

#### **What are some situations you may come across that are not emotional abuse?**

Here are three examples:

- A parent's decision to not use medication to control a child's behavior, unless the medication is necessary treatment for emotional damage as defined in the statutes and the parents can afford it.
- Yelling, name-calling, belittling the child
- Consistently favoring one child over another