

Common Elements of Child Torture

Consider child torture when several of the following elements are identified within a case:

Section One: Deprivation of Basic Necessities (at least 1 element)															
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	Please explain (as needed):														
Section Two: Physical Abuse (at least 2 physical assaults or 1 severe assault)															
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Section Three: Psychological Maltreatment (2 or more elements, can be a single incident)															
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Section Four: Supplemental Items	
☐	Current or History of Allegations for Sexual Abuse ☐ Penile, Digital or Object Penetration of the Anus ☐ Assault to the Genitals ☐ Forcing Sexual Intercourse ☐ Forcing to Remain Naked or Dance ☐ Forcing to Witness or Participate in Sexual Violence against another person ☐ Other:
☐	Forcing Excessive Exercise for Punishment
☐	History of Prior Referrals and /or Investigations by the Division of Family Services (DFS)
☐	One Child is Targeted
☐	Sibling(s) Abused
☐	Siblings Join in Blaming Victim and May Lack Empathy
☐	Family System is Blended and Both Caregivers Participate in the Alleged Abuse and/or Neglect
☐	One Caregiver Fails to Protect
☐	No Disclosure is Made by Targeted Child or Siblings
☐	Caregivers Provide Reasonable Explanations in Response to Allegations
☐	Caregivers Allege Mental Health Issues for Targeted Child (e.g. self injury) and Report Repeated Attempts to Seek Help
	Please explain (as needed):

Sources: Holler, Jim. "Child Torture – the American Trend." 30th National Symposium on Child Abuse (2014). Knox, Barbara L., et al. "Child Torture as a Form of Child Abuse." *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma* 7.1 (2014): 37-49.