

Main Office

1034 Sixth Avenue North
Naples, Florida 34102

941-263-8383

Fax: 941-263-7931

Hours: 8 AM to 5 PM, Mon-Fri
On call 24 hr/day

Satellite Office

Marion E. Fether Medical Center
1454 Madison Avenue
Immokalee, Florida 34142
(By appointment)

Child Protection Team is sponsored by the
Collier County Child Advocacy Council, Inc.,
State of Florida Department of Health,
State of Florida Office of the Attorney General
and the United Way of Collier County.



1034 Sixth Avenue North
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CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

COLLIER COUNTY
CHILD ADVOCACY COUNCIL, INC.



MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME BY PROXY

MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME BY PROXY is a form of child abuse in which a disorder or illness of the child is fabricated by the parent.

The parent usually responsible is the child's mother who may have MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME, which is characterized by constantly seeking medical treatment for acute illnesses which are often dramatically presented by the patient but which are false.

The syndrome was named for Baron van Munchausen who was reportedly a teller of tall tales.

There can be some terrible consequences of MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME BY PROXY, including unnecessary and painful tests on the child, frequent hospitalizations, potentially harmful treatments, and even death.

Although often considered rare, MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME BY PROXY may have been overlooked frequently in the past.

WARNING SIGNS

- Unexplained, prolonged or extraordinary illness
- Signs or symptoms that are incongruous or present only when the mother (or parent) is present
- Ineffective treatment
- Mother very much at ease on the pediatric floor
- Fraudulent medical history presented by parents
- False histories of seizures, rashes, or apnea spells
- Children usually range in age from infancy to 8 years old
- Overly attentive mother who remains with the child constantly
- Poor emotional or marital relationship between parents
- Fathers often keep a low profile at the hospital
- Family history of mental illness or MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME

MEDICAL TREATMENT

- Resolve medical dilemma.
- Stop unnecessary tests.
- Identify course of action.
- Separate mother from child.
- Obtain detailed psycho-social family history.
- Arrange for psychiatric help.
- Refer to child protective agency for social and legal intervention.
- Regular follow-up by knowledgeable health professionals.

WHERE YOU CAN GET HELP OR MORE INFORMATION

- Call your pediatrician, local mental health agency or Department of Health for help.
- Report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children & Families in the phone book under emergency numbers.
- Call the Child Protection Team for more information on child abuse and neglect.

If you know a child who is being abused or neglected, call Florida Abuse Hotline

1-800-96-ABUSE