Department of Health and Human Services: Opinion formed on reasonable grounds



The DHHS state that there may be reasonable grounds for forming such a belief if:

- A child or young person states that they have been physically or sexually abused
- A child or young person states that they know someone who has been or is being physically or sexually abused (sometimes the child may be talking about themselves)
- Someone who knows the child or young person (such as a relative, friend, acquaintance or sibling of the child) states that the child or young person has been or is being physically or sexually abused
- A child shows signs of being physically or sexually abused
- An adult is aware of persistent family violence or parental substance misuse, psychiatric illness or intellectual disability that is impacting on the child or young person's safety, stability or development
- An adult observes signs or indicators of abuse, including non-accidental or unexplained injury, persistent neglect, poor care or lack of appropriate supervision
- A child's actions or behaviour may place them at risk of significant harm and the child's parents are unwilling or unable to protect the child
- A child appears to have been abandoned or where the child's parents are dead or incapacitated, and no other person is caring properly for the child
- Other circumstances that lead a person to suspect that a child has been or is being abused.