

SUSPICIOUS RECURRENT CHILD ABUSE AND THE INTERSECTION FIELD OF PSYCHIATRY AND LAW: A CASE REPORT

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Introduction: In Brazil, children and adolescents are considered holders of Special Rights, as depicted in Article 227 of the 1988 Brazilian Constitution. Special Rights refers to a condition in which their rights should be respected, but also protected from physical, moral and psychological harm. Moreover, the Brazilian Child and Adolescent Statute (Law n. 8.069) specifically guarantees full protection of children and adolescents.

Objective: This case-report sought to discuss the intersection of Psychiatry and the Brazilian Law in a case of suspicious recurrent child abuse. AIM. To demonstrate the importance of protecting children from maltreatment by reporting the case of a suspicious recurrent child abuse.

Method: Case-report: A 7-year-old child and her mother were evaluated by two psychiatrists, as requested by the Public Attorney Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro. Denouncements of possible recurrent negligent treatment by the parents had been referred to the Public Attorney Office since the child was one year old. Other family members were also interviewed, to better understand the family dynamics. RESULTS. The mother had no symptoms of mental disorder. The child had symptoms of possible child abuse, such as physical and school failure, emotional and social withdrawal.

Conclusions: Clinicians must pay attention to emotional signs and symptoms that can be indicators of child abuse, which must be reported to law enforcement. We also highlight the importance of evaluating and giving support to the whole family.