

## What can I do if I'm Facing Child Neglect Charges?

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An 18-month-old's future is in the hands of the law now after his father was arrested Saturday on [child neglect charges](#). The case was so severe that an emergency hearing has been scheduled for today to determine who will receive custody of the child. It is highly unlikely that the father will be able to have the child in his care ever again.

The following is an article from WPTV News Channel 5:

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) -- A neighbor called authorities after spotting an 18-month-old boy picking up beer cans and drinking out of them outside his Orlando home.

Orange County Sheriff's deputies arrested the child's father Saturday night and an emergency hearing is scheduled for Monday morning at the Juvenile Justice Center in Orlando to determine who will take custody of the child.

Officials say the father was "passed out" inside his mobile home when deputies arrived after the neighbor called 911. The child was alone outside, drinking beer.

Elvin Garcia was arrested on child neglect charges and made his first appearance in court Sunday morning. Department of Children and Families investigators described the home as "deplorable."

## Child Neglect and Abuse in Florida

Over one million children are victims of child abuse and neglect each year, according to state child protective service agencies. Many of them never receive help because the crimes committed against them are not reported to authorities. Abused children can be found in all races, ages, religions, and socioeconomic standings. When abuse or neglect is reported, the Department of Children and Families steps in to protect the abused when possible.

If you suspect anyone you know is being abused, call the Florida Abuse hotline at 1-800-962-2873. Just make one phone call and you can salvage the future of abused, neglected, and/or exploited children and vulnerable adults in Florida.

## Child Abuse and Neglect Criminal Defense

Everyone's circumstances are different. If you are facing [child neglect or abuse charges](#) you most likely don't have anyone on your team, trying to protect your rights. The justice system has no mercy for people who commit crimes against children, but at the same time, you need someone who can ensure you a fair trial. An experienced [criminal defense lawyer](#) will conduct his own investigation and make sure all the evidence is present when you are tried. Have a knowledgeable criminal defense attorney explain the process to come.

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