

**WHAT EVERY
PARENT
SHOULD KNOW**

**LO QUE
TODO PADRE
DEBERIA SABER**

*About childhood sexual abuse and
molestation.
Acerca del abuso sexual de menores*



LAWS Sexual Assault Services
serving Loudoun County

Leesburg Office
703-771-9020

24-hour hotline
703-777-6552

What You Can Do

- If you learn that your child is being abused the first, and probably most important thing you can do is believe your child...even if what they are telling you seems unbelievable.
- Be calm and supportive.
- Reassure your child that she or he is **not** to blame.
- Report the abuse to the proper authorities. Notify the police and social services.
- If the abuse is occurring in the home, take your child to a safe place e.g. trusted friend or family member's home, a local shelter, or safe house.
- Take your child to be examined by a physician.
- Call our hotline (**703-777-6552**) for information on where to go and what to do.
- Get counseling or other supportive services for your child.



Que Es El Abuso

Abuso sexual de menores es cualquier experiencia o circunstancia donde una persona menor de 18 años es coercida u obligada a ser envuelta en material sexual. Esto puede incluir:

- Exhibicionismo
- Mostrando o tomando fotos explícitamente sexuales
- Caricias
- Voyerismo
- Intento o finalización del acto sexual
- Prostitución

El abuso sexual de menores se da dentro de cada raza, etnia, religión, clase social, nivel de educación, grupo social o clase económica....

El estereotipo del abusador se considera como un desconocido peligroso, o mental y a veces esto no concuerda con la realidad de los hechos.

- Solo el 10-15% de los abusadores son extraños.
- Frecuentemente, las víctimas ya confían en el abusador.
- Personas aparentemente normales, hasta miembros respetados de la comunidad, abusan sexualmente a menores.

Lo Que Usted Puede

- Si UD. Se entera que su niño ha sido abusado, lo mas importante sera que UD. Cree en lo que dice su hijo...asi usted crea que lo que dice el niño es extraño, mantengase calmado y apoyelo.
- Si el abuso sucede en casa, lleve al niño a un lugar seguro, a casa de amigos, familia o algun refugio o casa segura.
- Lleve al niño al medico.
- Dejele saber que lo sucedido no fue su culpa.
- Llame a nuestra linea de telefono (703-777-6552) para informacion sobre donde ir o que hacer.
- Reporte el hecho a las autoridades pertinentes como la policia y servicios sociales.
- Obtenga consejeria u otros servicios de apoyo.

ENSEÑAR AL NIÑO ESTRATEGIAS PARA EVITAR UN ASALTO:

1. Decir No
 2. Gritar para pedir ayuda.
 3. Salir rapido.
 4. Contarselo a alguien.
- Anime a su hijo a hablar con adultos en los cuales el confia, acerca de cualquier cosa que lo haga sentir mal, asustado, confuso, o incomodo.

CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT: WHAT IS IT?

Child Sexual Assault is any exploitive or coercive sexual experience involving a person under the age of 18. This can include:

- Exhibitionism
- Taking and/or showing sexually explicit pictures
- Fondling
- Voyeurism
- Attempted or completed intercourse
- Prostitution

Child sexual assault occurs within all racial, ethnic, religious, educational, gender, social and economic classes.

The stereotype of child molesters as mentally unstable, dangerous-looking strangers is not statistically accurate:

- Only 10-15% of offenders are strangers
- Often child victims have trusting dependent relationships with offenders
- Ordinary-seeming men and women, even respected community members, sexually assault children

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

PHYSICAL INDICATORS:

- Physical symptoms such as: sexually transmitted diseases; pregnancy; urinary tract infections; vaginal or anal soreness, bleeding, or itching
- Chronic physical ailments
- Eating disorders

BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS:

- Aggressive behavior
- Sexual acting-out
- Lack of or overly affectionate behavior
- Poor peer relationships
- Pseudo-mature or regressive behavior
- Lying
- Delinquency: Running away, prostitution, alcohol/drug use

EMOTIONAL INDICATORS:

- Sleep disturbances
 - Reluctance to go to a particular place; fear of being with a particular person
 - Age-inappropriate understanding of sexual behavior
 - Academic problems or over-achievement
 - Extreme curiosity and creativity or lack of spontaneity
 - Inability to concentrate; "zoning out"
 - Depression, phobias, suicidal feelings
-

Safety Tips

It is never too early or too late to talk with your children about assault prevention. Any child could potentially be victimized, and all must learn, with our help, how to protect themselves.

GIVE CHILDREN INFORMATION

- Teach children that they have the right to decide who touches them, and how and when.
- Teach them that they have a right to talk about their feelings and that they never have to keep a secret that makes them feel bad.
- Teach children strategies for responding to assault:
 1. **Say No.**
 2. **Yell for help.**
 3. **Get away.**
 4. **Tell somebody.**

Encourage your children to talk to adults they trust about anything that makes them feel bad, scared, confused, or uncomfortable.



703.777.6552

24-hr. hotline

Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice

LAWS

105 E. Market Street

Leesburg, VA 20176

LAWS: 703-771-9020

e-mail: laws@lcsj.org

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