



Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse is any sexual activity between an adult and a child. A child can be sexually abused by another child too.

Sexual abuse can be touching or non-touching. It may include sexual talk, pornography, fondling, oral sex, incest, and rape and can happen to any child of any age including infants. Child sexual abuse can also include internet crimes such as requests for sexual talk, contact or pictures, exposure to sexual images, and sexual bullying or harassment.

Child sex trafficking, known as commercial sexual exploitation of children, is also sexual abuse. It is when something of value is given or promised such as money, food, shelter, gifts or drugs in exchange for sexual activity with the child.

90% of abused children are abused by someone they or their caregivers know and trust. It can be someone like a parent, grandparent, neighbor, teacher, coach or friend.

SIGNS of **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE** MAY INCLUDE:

- Problems walking or sitting
- Redness, rashes, bleeding, or pain in the genital or anal areas
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy
- Changes in behavior
- Feeling sad or anxious
- Problems at school
- Withdrawing from family or friends
- Fear of certain people, places or activities
- Knowledge about sex inappropriate for the child's age



It is important to know that some children may show no signs at all.



**Prevent Child Abuse
Illinois™**

www.preventchildabuseillinois.org

We all have an important role to play in keeping children safe!

Here Is What You Can Do:

- Talk with your children about child sexual abuse. Let them know they can talk to you about anything.
- Teach children the proper names for body parts.
- Tell your child that no one should touch them in a way that makes them feel scared or uncomfortable. If someone does, they should tell you or another trusted adult right away.
- Teach children not to keep secrets. If anyone tells them to keep a secret they should tell you immediately.
- Know where your children are and who they are with.
- Monitor your child's internet use including their laptop, tablet, phone and gaming system. Tell them to never meet anyone in person that they met online.
- Raise awareness. Ask your child's school, youth group or faith organization if they have a sexual abuse prevention policy.
- If a child tells you about abuse, **believe them**. Tell them they did the right thing by telling you. **Report it**.



It is an adult's responsibility to keep children safe!

To learn more about child sexual abuse visit:

www.D2I.org
www.stopitnow.org
www.rainn.org