

## How do I identify a child that is being molested or sexually abused?

### **Know the Warning Signs (in Children)**

- **Changes in behavior:** (new or unusual to child)
  - fear of a certain person or place
  - withdrawn, crying, afraid, rage, mood swings, regression
  - refuses to eat
  - not wanting to be alone, insecurities
  - thinks of body as dirty, repulsive, or bad
- **Change in sleeping patterns:**
  - night sweats, night terrors, nightmares
  - bedwetting
- **Unexplained injuries**
  - genital pain/bleeding/rashes
  - unexplained cuts and/or bruises
- **Unusual interest/knowledge/expressions of sexually related matters**
  - excessive touching of own or other's private parts
  - conversations center sexual topics
  - interest in sexual images
  - Writes, draws, plays, or dreams of sexual or frightening images
- **Secretive**
  - has money toys or other gifts without reason
  - leaves clues trying to provoke discussions about sexual issues
  - refuses to talk about a secret shared with an adult or older friend

### **Know the Warning Signs (in Adolescents)**

- Self-injury (cutting, burning)
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Sexual promiscuity
- Running away from home
- Depression, anxiety
- Suicide attempts
- Fear of intimacy or closeness
- Compulsive eating or dieting
- Inadequate personal hygiene (too much or too little)

## How do I identify a child predator?

### **Know the Warning Signs (in Predators)**

- Making others uncomfortable by ignoring social, emotional, or physical boundaries or limits
- Refusing to let a child set any of his or her own limits; using teasing or belittling language to keep a child from setting a limit
- Insisting on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with, or holding a child even when the child does not want this physical contact or attention
- Turning to a child for emotional or physical comfort by sharing personal or private information or activities that are normally shared with adults
- Frequently pointing out sexual images or telling inappropriate or suggestive jokes with children present
- Exposing a child to adult sexual interactions without apparent concern
- Having secret interactions with teens or children (e.g., games; sharing drugs, alcohol, or sexual material) or spending excessive time e-mailing, text-messaging, or calling children or youth
- Being overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child or teen (e.g., talks repeatedly about the child's developing body or interferes with normal teen dating)
- Insisting on or managing to spend unusual amounts of uninterrupted time alone with a child
- Seeming “too good to be true” (e.g., frequently babysits different children for free, takes children on special outings alone, buys children gifts or gives them money for no apparent reason)
- Frequently walking in on children/teens in the bathroom
- Allowing children or teens to consistently get away with inappropriate behaviors

\* <https://www.nsopw.gov/enUS/Education/RecognizingSexualAbuse?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>



**How to Report:** To make a report, state laws require that you have reasonable suspicion that abuse is occurring. This means you **do not need proof** of sexual abuse to make a “good faith” report to authorities.

### **What is a good faith report?**

A good faith report means that you have reasonable suspicion of abuse, including any of the following:

- You witnessed a pattern of boundary violations by an adult or youth.
- You intervened in boundary violations, and yet the person continues.
- You received a disclosure of abuse or boundary violation from a child.
- You see physical signs of abuse.

**Before you report, take a few moments to jot down some notes in two categories:**

1. What is the action, or failure to act, on the part of the parent or caregivers?
2. How are these actions or failures to act affecting and hurting the child?

### **What do I need to make a report?**

Make your report immediately to child protective services or law enforcement and include:

- Name of the alleged victim
- Age of the child
- Address where the child can be located
- Contact information for the child’s parents or caregivers, if known
- Types of abuse or neglect suspected
- Reason for making the report, including specific signs of maltreatment and whether it is part of an ongoing pattern
- Other children in the home, if known
- Name of the alleged perpetrator, if known
- The emergency nature of the report and whether the child is in imminent danger
- Name, phone number, and address of the reporter

**When known, the following should also be shared with child protective services:**

- Exact time the child disclosed abuse, if there was a disclosure
- Whether the perpetrator is aware of the report & if the non-offending parent was notified of the report
- Last occurrence of the offense

### **-For pdfs of reporting child sexual abuse tips and what to do when a child discloses visit:**

[https://www.d2l.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Reporting\\_Child\\_Sexual\\_Abuse-Small-File.pdf](https://www.d2l.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Reporting_Child_Sexual_Abuse-Small-File.pdf)  
[https://www.d2l.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Mandated\\_Reporting\\_07.07.15.pdf](https://www.d2l.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Mandated_Reporting_07.07.15.pdf)

Information from \*<https://www.d2l.org/get-help/reporting/making-a-report/>



## **Additional Resources for Reporting Child Sexual Abuse**

### **Darkness to Light Helpline** (1-866-FOR-LIGHT)

24/7 assistance providing local resource referrals and answering questions.

### **Childhelp** (1.800.4ACHILD) **USA's National Child Abuse Hotline**

Serving the United States, its territories, and Canada, the hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week providing assistance in over 170 languages. All calls are confidential. Linked page includes a list of child protective services phone numbers by state.

<http://www.childhelp.org/>

### **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Cyber Tip line** (1.800.843.5678)

National reporting hotline for internet safety

<http://www.missingkids.com/home>

### **Homeland Security Investigations Tip Form**

Online reporting of CSE, CSA, Trafficking to U.S. Homeland Security

### **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center**

24 Hour Hotline: (216) 619-6192

<http://www.clevelandrapecrisis.org/>

### **Rape Abuse & Incest National Network**

1-800-656-4673

(1-800-656-HOPE)

<http://www.rainn.org/>

### **National Domestic Violence/Abuse Hotline**

1-800-799-7233

(1-800-799-SAFE)

1-800-787-3224 TTY

<http://www.thehotline.org/>

### **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**

[www.aacap.org/publications/factsfam/sexabuse.htm](http://www.aacap.org/publications/factsfam/sexabuse.htm)

### **American Psychological Association**

<http://www.apa.org/topics/sexual-abuse/index.aspx>