

You can help stop child sexual abuse!



Are you aware that "1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys are sexually exploited before they reach adulthood,"¹ yet "less than 35% of those child sexual assaults are reported to authorities?"²

Recognize the indicators and report suspected sexual abuse:

Physical Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse**

- Gastrointestinal disturbance
- Difficulty sitting or walking
- Torn, stained or bloody clothing or underwear
- Pain or itching in genital area
- Unexplained bruises, lacerations, swelling, redness or bleeding in genital, anal or vaginal area
- Complaints of genital or rectal pain
- Psychosomatic complaints, such as stomachaches, headaches
- Vomiting or gagging
- Sexually transmitted disease (especially in preteens)
- Pain experienced in elimination
- Pregnancy

Behavioral Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse**

- Withdrawing from social settings or rejecting affection from family members
- Sexual acting out
- Sudden knowledge of sexual terms or names of body parts
- Hyperactive or anxious behavior
- Change or loss of appetite
- Sleeping problems: insomnia, nightmares, refusal to sleep alone, etc.
- Regressive behaviors: thumb-sucking, bed-wetting, infantile behaviors
- Fearfulness or excessive clinginess
- Loss of friends
- Change in personal hygiene or sudden shift in personality
- Suicidal feelings or behaviors
- Problems in school
- Runaway from home

Under Kentucky state law ANYONE who suspects or has reason to believe a child is being abused or neglected MUST report this information to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, local law enforcement, the Kentucky State Police or the local Commonwealth's Attorney or County Attorney (KRS 620.030). This law states that physicians, nurses, teachers, social workers, school personnel, medical personnel, emergency medical technicians and paramedics are among those professionals statutorily required to report suspected abuse or neglect. Failure to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse or neglect, may result in criminal charges being filed (KRS 620.990).

¹ David Finkelhor. Current Information on the Scope and Nature of Child Abuse. *The Future of Children: Sexual Abuse of Children*, 1994, Volume 4, page 37.

² K.J. Ruggiero and D.G. Kilpatrick (unpublished data). Reporting rape to the authorities: Findings from the *National Women's Study* (Kilpatrick, et al., 1992) and *National Violence Against Women's Survey* (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). Medical University of South Carolina, National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center.

**Indicators from *Promise Not to Tell: A Teacher's Guide to Recognizing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse* (Funding provided by the Child Victims' Trust Fund, 2003)

Child Victims' Trust Fund



For more information, call (502) 696-5312
or visit <http://ag.ky.gov/victims/>

