

Standing Together Against Rape focuses on education and crisis response in the Anchorage community as well as throughout the state. Information about STAR can be obtained 24 hours a day.

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A PRESENTATION

Commonly Requested Presentations*

- Personal Safety for K-12
- Sexual Violence Overview
- Prevention and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse
- Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse
- Safety Awareness for Children
- Sexual Harassment
- Male Sexual Violence
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Asexual, Allies, Intersex and sexual violence
- Elder Abuse
- Sexual Assault and Consent for People with Disabilities
- The Role of a STAR Advocate
- Safety Planning and Sexual Violence Within a Relationship
- Vicarious Trauma as a Helping Professional

Support Services available:

- 24-hour support and information for victims and families of sexual violence
- Explanation of reporting and healthcare options
- Hospital response and assistance filing police report
- 1-on-1 advocacy sessions by appointment or walk-in
- Support groups throughout the year on various topics
- Legal Advocacy and court accompaniment
- Information and referral for other support agencies and counselors throughout the state.

*Topics can be tailored to meet the needs of your group and are not limited to the above list.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Office of Children's Services (OCS)	269-4000
Anchorage Police Dispatch (APD)	786-8500
Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)	272-0100

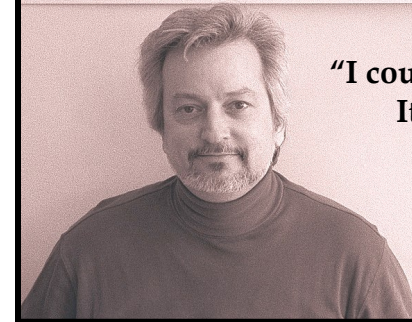
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**Standing
Together
Against
Rape**

How Can I Help?

**A Guide for Teachers, Care Givers, and
Adults Working with Children**



**"I couldn't just ignore what I heard.
It's my job to teach science
AND protect kids."**

Standing Together Against Rape

**1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 230
Anchorage, AK 99503**

**Business 907-276-7279 Crisis 907-276-7273
Relay Friendly Statewide Crisis Line 1-800-478-8999
www.staralaska.com**



What is child sexual abuse?

Child sexual abuse is **ANY** sexual contact between a child* and an adult or an older child.
* "Child" includes anyone under the age of 18.

years of age

RED Indicators- Report Indicators Immediately

- Disclosure
- Knowledge of genital injuries
- Knowledge of sexually transmitted infections
- Sexualized stories or poems
- Sexualized drawings
- Exposing themselves
- Masturbating in public
- Promiscuity
- Suicide attempts
- Alcohol or drug use
- Running away

YELLOW Indicators- Collect more information and tell a supervisor

- Arson
- Knowledge of sore genitals or bottom
- Knowledge of chronic urinary/vaginal infections
- Obsessive washing
- Depression
- Hysterical symptoms
- Inability to control urination
- Inability to control bowel movement
- Suspicion of anorexia
- Rumors of using inhalants
- Nightmares
- Overly flirtatious
- Unexplained large sums of money/gifts

GREEN Indicators- Take a note in case something more significant is later presented

- Abdominal pains
- Developmental regression
- Peer problems
- Psychosomatic condition
- School problems

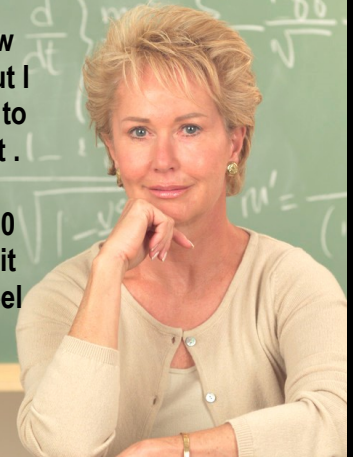
What the Office of Children's Services Wants to Know:

- Name, age, date of birth, gender, race, and current address.
- Present location of child.
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of parents and siblings.
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of other significant relatives.
- If the child is native, their tribal affiliation.
- Nature and extent of the problem.
- Incident or situation precipitating the report.
- Present condition of the child.
- Names, addresses, and phone number(s) of person(s) responsible for the abuse.
- Any action taken by reporter or others.
- The name, address, and phone number of the person making the report.
- Whether the reporter witnessed the abuse or neglect, the dates of the occurrence, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of others who have knowledge of the incident or situation.
- Is the child or any children unsafe in the current home?
- Whether the reporter has informed the family of plans to file this report.
- Whether the reporter is willing to have their name released.

**You can
remain an
anonymous
reporter.**

**"I didn't know
Everything, but I
knew enough to
make a report .**

**It only took 20
minutes and it
helped him feel
safe."**



When should a report be made?

There should be a report made when there is known abuse **OR** when there is any reasonable suspicion of abuse happening.

Reasonable suspicion includes:

- « Witnessing abuse
- « Hearing statements of abuse by another person
- « A child making a statement that sounds like abuse
- « Seeing any of the warning signs

Frequently asked questions about reporting:



1) "Do I need proof in order to make a report?"

No, you do not need proof. You only need to have a reasonable suspicion to make a report.

2) "Will I be informed of the case status?"

Not necessarily. Due to confidentiality laws, the worker may not be able to give you any information.

3) "Will my report be confidential?"

Usually your report will be kept confidential. However, there could be a time that you are called into court. If this is a concern, there are times when you are able to make an anonymous report.

4) "Will I be called to testify in court?"

Not usually. However, that could happen especially if you have "first hand knowledge" of the situation.

5) "Can I be sued if I file a report and it turns out to be false?"

NO, not if you are reporting due to reasonable suspicion and concern for the child.

6) "Is the child going to be taken from their home if I report?"

This depends on if the child services worker determines that the child is in immediate danger if they reside in the home. There are other possible options for the child before removing them from the home.

Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse for children **12+** years of age

RED Indicators- Report Indicators Immediately

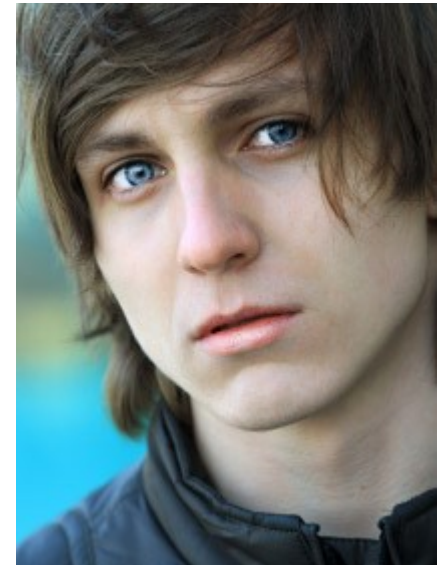
- Disclosure
- Knowledge of genital injuries
- Knowledge of sexual mutilation of breasts/genitals
- Pregnancy under 16
- Knowledge of sexually transmitted infections
- Prostitution

YELLOW Indicators- Collect more information and tell a supervisor

- Sexual boasting/stories/jokes
- Pregnancy over age 16
- Sexually offending
- Rebellious against men (gender specific)
- Drug and alcohol use
- Suicide attempts
- Self-mutilation
- Continual lying
- Consistently absent or tardy
- Running away
- Hysterical symptoms
- Obsessive washing
- Psychotic episodes

GREEN Indicators- Take a note in case something more significant is later presented

- Suspicion of depression
- Suspicion of anorexia
- Avoidance of school
- Peer problems
- Authority problems



**You may be the only who is paying attention.
You may be the only who cares enough to help.**

Types of Disclosures

DIRECT DISCLOSURE

A child may approach a trusted adult in private and speak directly and specifically about the abuse. Unfortunately, this is one of the least common ways a child discloses.

*"Grandpa touches me."
"Daddy gets in bed with me at night."*

INDIRECT HINTS

A child may talk in these terms because she/he hasn't learned more specific vocabulary, feels too ashamed, or is embarrassed to talk more directly. The child may have promised not to tell.

*"My brother wouldn't let me sleep last night."
"Mr. Jones wears funny underwear."
"My babysitter keeps bothering me."*

DISGUISED DISCLOSURE

The child might talk to you about a friend or a sibling, but the abuse is actually happening to him/her.

*"I know someone who is being touched in a secret way."
"What would happen if a girl told her mother she was being bothered,
but her mother didn't believe her?"*

DISCLOSURE WITH STRINGS ATTACHED

Children are often afraid that some negative consequence will result if they break the secret of abuse; often the offender uses threats.

*"I have a problem, but if I tell you about it
you have to promise not to tell anyone else."
"Can you keep a secret?"*

Disclosing sexual abuse at ANY age is very scary. Like a dive into the deep, a child needs support, encouragement, and validation.

How should I respond to a disclosure of abuse?

- « Children need to know that it's okay to talk to YOU about abuse.
- « Children need to know that they are believed and that they did nothing wrong.
- « Be certain to evaluate the immediate safety needs of that child. If that child is in immediate danger contact the police.
- « Make sure to file a report of harm within 24 hours (follow state guidelines as well as your school/agency guidelines).



When responding to a disclosure:

- « Don't interrogate a child. However, collect enough information for an OCS report.
- « Be attentive.
- « Get on their level; sit eye to eye with them.
- « Show them support and respect their physical boundaries.
- « Let them know it was brave of them to tell you.
- « Don't overreact; it may scare or create distrust in a child.
- « Don't tell children you will keep a secret. You must report.
- « Write down the necessary information to make the report.
- « You have 24 hours to make the report.
- « Ask if the child has any intentions on hurting himself/herself or is thinking of hurting the abuser.

**Don't delay- Never assume
someone else will report the abuse.**

**The faster the abuse is reported, the faster the
child and the child's family will get help.**

**Collect enough information for a report,
but avoid additional questions that may
harm an investigation.**