

Sexual Abuse Prevention Training

Church of Christ-Fond du Lac

Child Protection Training



Why must we do this?

- The goal of this training is to protect children and youth and the adult volunteers who serve within the Children's and Youth Ministries through it's various classes, events, and camps.

Training Must Cover

- The definitions and effects of sexual abuse and child molestation
- The warning signs and symptoms associated with sexual abuse or child molestation
- The typical patterns of behavior and methods of operation of child molesters
- The recommended rules and procedures to address, reduce, prevent, and report suspected sexual abuse or child molestation.



Training Material

- Most of the material in this training presentation comes from the “Reducing the Risk II - Making Your Church Safe from Child Sexual Abuse” by Church Mutual Insurance Company.



What do you think?

- How common is child abuse in the U.S.?
- What percentage of boys are sexually abused in the U.S.?
- What percentage of girls are sexually abused in the U.S.?



Child Sexual Abuse Statistics

- There are over 60 million survivors of sexual abuse in the U.S. today
- One in ten boys is sexually abused
- One in four girls is sexually abused

What is Child Sexual Abuse?

- Child sexual abuse is a criminal offense in all 50 states, but the precise legal definition varies from state to state.
- However, most definitions include any form of sexual contact or exploitation in which a minor is being used for sexual stimulation of the perpetrator.

Child Sexual Abuse

- Sexual abuse may also be committed by a person under the age of 18 when the person is significantly older than the victim or when the perpetrator is in a position of power and control over the child.
- Child sexual abuse may be violent or non-violent.
- Child sexual abuse occurs in all demographic, racial, ethnic, socio-economic, & religious groups.



Types of Sexual Abuse

- Touching
- Non-touching

Sexual abuse that involves touching may includes:

- Fondling
- Oral, genital, and anal penetration
- Intercourse
- Forcible rape

Sexual abuse that does not involve touching may include:

- Verbal comments
- Pornographic videos
- Obscene phone calls
- Exhibitionism
- Allowing children to witness sexual activity
- Explicit photography

Symptoms of Molestation

- Physical
- Behavioral
- Verbal

Physical Symptoms:

- Bruises on flanks, buttocks, or thighs; multiple bruises of multiple colors
- Lacerations
- Abrasions on the wrist, legs, or neck
- Nightmares
- Fractures or burns
- Bleeding or the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases

Behavioral Symptoms

- Anxiety when approaching a particular place (where abuse has occurred or the abuser may be encountered) or person
- Nervous, hostile, or defiant behavior toward adults
- Sexual self-consciousness
- “Acting out” of sexual behaviors
- Withdrawals from social activities and friends

Verbal signs may include statements such as:

- I don't like [a particular person]
- [A particular person] does things to me when we're alone
- I don't like to be alone with [a particular person]
- [A particular person] fooled around with me



Factors that Affect the Impact of Sexual Abuse

- Intensity
- Duration
- Frequency
- Age at time of abuse
- Relationship to the perpetrator
- Violence
- Participation of victim



Long-term Consequences

- Outcome studies of adult survivors of child sexual abuse suggest the following effects:
- Sexual dysfunction, eating disorders, substance abuse, promiscuity, disassociation from emotions, and possible perpetration of sexual abuse on others (Geffner, 1992)



Recognizing a Molester

- It is very difficult to identify a child molester and there is no foolproof screening process
- The following statistics will provide some insight

Statistics on Molesters

- Over 89% of the time, the abuser is someone known to the victim (Strangers account for less than 20 percent of the abusers)
- Most abuse takes place within the context of an ongoing relationship
- The usual offender is between the ages of 20-30 years

Statistics on Molesters (2)

- 20% of sex offenders begin their activity before the age of 18
- Estimates indicate that when a known assailant commits the abuse, half of the time it is a father or stepfather, and the rest of the time it is a trusted adult who misuses his or her authority over children



Statistics on Molesters (3)

- The average molester will abuse 117 children before getting caught.
- Child abusers are often married and have children.
- A 1990 study revealed as much as 56 percent of child molestation cases are committed by adolescents, mostly males.



Methods of Operation

- Child molesters use seduction, trickery, and force to accomplish their sexual abuse.
- They use a process of grooming that correlates to the courting process.

Typical Patterns of Offenders

- Insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with or holding a child even when the child does not want this “affection”
- Overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child (example: talks about developing body, etc.)
- Seeks time alone with child
- Spends most of his/her time with children

Typical Patterns (2)

- Regularly offers to babysit or takes children on overnight outings
- Buys children expensive gifts or gives them money
- Frequently walks in on children in the bathroom
- Allows children to consistently get away with inappropriate behavior



Behavioral Profile of Molesters

- Research currently indicates that no one profile fits the various perpetrators of abuse.
- Kenneth Lanning, an FBI agent for 30 years, has determined that sexual offenders function along a motivational continuum that ranges from preferential sex offenders to situational sex offenders.

Preferential Sex Offenders

- “Preferential” offenders have a particular sexual preference, often for children of a particular age or gender.
- Although few in number, a single preferential perpetrator can molest hundreds of children (some over 500 in a lifetime).
- Because of their predatory nature, they actively seek victims and will engage in bold and repeated attempts to molest children

Preferential Sex Offenders (2)

- Develop long term patterns of abusive behaviors
- Are willing to invest significant amounts of time, energy, money, and other resources to fulfill their sexual needs
- Usually male, not married, and over 25

Preferential Sex Offender (3)

- Moves frequently
- Excessive interest in children
- Lives alone or with parents
- Maintains pornographic collections and photographs children

Preferential Sex Offenders (4)

- Spends an excessive amount of time socializing with children
- Intentional and selective concerning their victims
- May be hard working and skilled individuals in their everyday work life
- May even develop good relationships with the parents of the children they molest



Situational Sex Offenders

Definition:

A situational sex offender is an opportunist who engages in misconduct when a situation develops that makes the abuse possible.

Situational Sex Offenders (2)

- Most offenders are situational
- They have fewer victims than preferential
- Often molest their own children
- Have a wide range of sexual interests
- Can be abusive with children or adults in other ways
- Does not fit any single profile

Situational Sex Offenders (3)

- May use force or coerce their victims
- May be indiscriminate concerning whom they molest and act completely on impulse
- More likely to confess or feel remorse than are preferential molesters

Deterring Preferential and Situational Offenders

- The best way to ward off sex offenders is to develop an environment that puts the molester at risk rather than the children
- Develop a thorough screening process for both paid and volunteer workers
- Employ and maintain proper supervision and accountability

Points to Remember

- Both preferential and situational sex offenders operate in churches (or camps)
- Preferential offenders actively seek out children
- Situational offenders take advantage of opportunities that make abuse possible
- Remember most children know their abuser; therefore, “stranger danger” is not adequate prevention

Responding to Allegations of Abuse





1. Understand the problem

- Sexual misconduct poses a serious threat to churches and camps
- Sexual misconduct encompasses a broad range of actions

2. Provide a Caring Response

- First, be prepared mentally to receive an allegation. Do not express disbelief, minimize the complaint, or place blame on the victim.
- Second, be prepared for intense emotions from the complainant. Probing, but sensitive questions will be necessary to uncover some details.

3. Document the Allegation

- The name, age, gender and address of the victim
- The name, age, gender and address of the alleged perpetrator
- The nature of the sexual misconduct alleged to have occurred.
- How many times the alleged misconduct occurred.
- The date(s) and location(s) of the incident(s).
- The relationship between the victim and the alleged perpetrator.
- Other evidence that supports the allegation (eyewitnesses, medical exams, confessions, etc.)



4. Report the Allegation

- Immediately report the allegation to an elder/leadership team member
- They have the contact information for the state and will help you finish gathering any needed information



Things to Avoid

- Minimizing or failing to follow-up on any and all allegations
- Contacting the alleged perpetrator before the Police or Social Services investigator has given permission
- Failing to keep the information confidential – information should only be shared with those with qualified privilege

What ministers and leaders
will do to protect children and
volunteers?



Ministers and/or leaders will ...

- require all volunteers to complete an application that asks for a history of criminal convictions
- have a letter of reference on file for each volunteer
- conduct an annual criminal background check on all volunteers



Ministers and/or leaders will ...

- conduct an annual background check using a Sex Offender Registration database for each volunteer
- provide a sexual abuse and child molestation training and examination program.
- provide at least one adult supervisor for no more than ten children.

What Volunteers Should Do To Prevent Sexual Abuse



Provide Appropriate Supervision

- The level of supervision should correspond with the level of risk.
 - **General** supervision is appropriate for low risk activities; focus is on the group at large
 - **Specific** supervision is appropriate for higher risk activities; supervision is more direct and focused



Assess Levels of Risk

- Assess the level of risk by examining the following three factors:
 - Isolation
 - Accountability
 - Power and Control



Risk Factor 1 : Isolation

- Most sexual abuse occurs in isolated settings.
 - Four factors that affect isolation are:
 - The number of people present
 - The time of the activity
 - The location of the activity
 - The physical arrangements
- Minimize the isolation factor in all camp activities.

Risk Factor 2: Accountability

- Accountability involves justifying one's actions.
 - Three factors that affect the accountability of supervisors
 - The personal character and integrity of the adult worker
 - The number of people present for the activity
 - The degree of openness and approval associated with the activity
- All activities should be properly supervised and approved

Risk Factor 3: Power and Control

- Children are vulnerable to sexual predators because of the imbalance of power related to size, strength, control and authority.
 - Balance does not exist between a child and an adult abuser
 - Research indicates one-fourth of church-related abuse cases involve another child
 - Risk increases when there is a large age difference between children
- Provide a proper balance of power in all activities

Preventative Steps

- Have two or more adults at each activity
- Model appropriate dress and language
- Avoid teasing and jokes with sexual overtones
- Physical affection – keep appropriate; allow youth to initiate
- Watch for and correct any sexually suggestive behavior from children

Preventative Steps

- Watch for any developing relationships between an older and a younger child
- Discourage isolated one-on-one encounters between children
- Minimize one-on-one encounters between staff and child
 - Avoid isolation (use visible, well-lighted areas)
 - No one-on-one sessions after “lights out”
 - Minimize times when only one adult is alone in the cabin



Preventative Steps

- Report to all of your assigned activities in order to provide appropriate supervision for our children
- Report any suspected child abuse to an elder/leadership team member

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- Child abuse and neglect are against the law in Wisconsin, and so is failure to report it.

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- If you suspect a child has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Wisconsin Department of Family and Protective Services or to a law enforcement agency.

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- You are required to make a report immediately when you suspected the child has been or may be abused or neglected.

REVIEW TIME





Review

- Sexual abuse may be defined as any interaction between a child and an adult in which the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator.
- Child sexual abuse is a criminal offense in all 50 states
- Camps can be held liable for child sexual abuse

Review

- Volunteers as well as paid staff members can be held liable for child sexual abuse.
- If you suspect sexual abuse, it should be reported immediately (Texas w/in 48 hrs.)
- Twenty percent of the molesters begin their activity before age 18
- Sexual abusers may be male or female

Review

- A sex offender often spends more time with children than with people his/her own age.
- In the U.S. 1 in 4 girls is abused
- Children molest other children – 1990 case found 56% of child molestation cases were committed by adolescents.



Review

- A preferential child molester may have over 500 victims in a lifetime.
- The most prevalent type of offender is the situational offender.
- Isolation increases the risk of sexual abuse.
- Child abuse victims usually know their molester.



Review

- Having two unrelated adults present at an activity lowers risk.
- Never express disbelief, minimize the complaint, or place blame on the victim when receiving an allegation
- All allegations should be documented and reported

Review

- Allegations of sexual abuse should be shared only with those who have qualified privilege
- An alleged perpetrator should not be contacted immediately following an allegation – ministers and/or leaders will make contact after the state or law enforcement agency gives permission



Review

- Non-touching abuse can include
 - Pornographic videos
 - Exhibitionism
 - Allowing children to witness sexual activity



Review

- Physical signs of abuse may include
 - Bruising
 - Nightmares
 - Difficulty in urination



Review

- Behavioral signs of sexual abuse may include
 - Anxiety
 - Nervous and hostile behavior towards adults
 - Withdrawal from social activities and friends



Review

- Effects of child sexual abuse may include
 - Aggressive behavior
 - Sexual acting out
 - Depression



Review

- Victims may suffer long-term effects including
 - Sexual dysfunction
 - Eating disorders
 - Substance abuse
 - Promiscuity

TEST TIME

You can take the test online by click the button on the Child Protection Policy page on our website.