

Quick Reference Guide

Child sexual abuse is a societal ill that threatens our children. No child is immune to child sexual abuse. Parents and other caring adults must protect children.



Step One—Learn more about child sexual abuse

- To prevent child sexual abuse, parents and other caring adults must first understand abuse.
- Child sexual abuse is any sexual activity with a child—whether in the home by a caretaker, in a daycare situation, in a foster residential setting, or in any other setting, including on the street by a person unknown to the child. The abuser may be an adult, an adolescent, or another older child.
- Perpetrators of child sexual abuse are like other people, with the exception that they have committed the crime of child sexual abuse.
- Perpetrators of child sexual abuse exhibit warning signs.
- Victims of child sexual abuse exhibit warning signs of mistreatment.
- Sexually abused children suffer long-term consequences from abuse.



Step Two—Take action to safeguard children from child sexual abuse

- To prevent abuse, all caring adults must make a commitment to safeguard children from child sexual abuse.
- Parents and other caring adults must develop a healthy suspicion of adults and older children who interact with and have the opportunity to be alone with a child.
- Parents must teach their children about proper relationship boundaries.
- To help prevent sexual abuse, parents and other caring adults must communicate with their children.



Step Three—Report suspicions of child sexual abuse to the proper authorities

- When they suspect or reasonably suspect abuse, parents and other caring adults must take action.



Review—The three steps for preventing child sexual abuse are:

Step 1—Learn more about child sexual abuse.

Step 2—Take action to safeguard children from child sexual abuse.

Step 3—Report any suspicion of child sexual abuse to the proper authorities.