

# What To Do If You Are Worried

Call the  
Department of Human Services (DHS)  
541-776-6120

Be ready to give specific information

- Name
- Age
- Birth Date
- Address
- Parent/Guardian name
- Information about the incident that prompted your call



Children's  
Advocacy

C E N T E R

OF JACKSON COUNTY

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## Effects Of Sexual Abuse On Victims

Healing Children at the Speed of Love



JACKSON COUNTY CHILD ABUSE TASK FORCE, INC.

## What is Sexual Abuse ?

The exploitation of a child for the gratification of an adult or any significant older person. Fondling, oral sex, simulated or actual intercourse, exhibitionism, taking sexual explicit pictures of children, showing children sexually explicit material or having sex in front of a child. Three year age difference, unequal power and control. Incest is child sexual abuse which occurs between family members, including mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, adoptive and step relations, legitimate and illegitimate children, or relatives of whole or half blood.

The effects of abuse are devastating for the victim, the victim's family, and the rest of society.

## Signs of Sexual Abuse ?

### Physical Indicators

**Child:** Difficulty in sitting or walking; repeated symptoms of medical problems with the genitals, or digestive system, venereal disease; pregnancy.

### Behavioral Indicators

**Child:** Unusual sexual behavior or knowledge; nightmares; poor peer relationships; few social skills; extremely isolated; repeated "run-aways".

**Parent:** Extremely overprotective; overly interested in child's social and sexual life; sees child as highly sexualized.

## Male Sexual Assault

Male victimization is a crisis nobody wants to hear about because rape is thought of as a woman's issue. Happening to victims who are helpless, vulnerable, passive with weak traits that are not considered male. In our society, men are expected and socialized to be:

- **In Control**
- **Powerful**
- **Strong**
- **Never Afraid**
- **Aggressive in Sex**

When a male becomes a victim of sexual abuse, raped and molested by someone in a position of authority, or someone he likes and trusts, he feels:

- **Anger**
- **Guilt/Shame**
- **Betrayed**
- **Powerless**
- **Fear and confusion about sexual identity and sexual preference**
- **Desire to hurt others Responsible for the abuse**
- **Depressed**

Because of these feelings and victim blaming by others, the crime often goes unreported. Males are more often abused by someone outside the family who is known to them. Some male victims are assaulted by women; most are same-sex assaults: men assaulting boys or men. Same-sex assault is typically more physically violent than opposite-sex assault. There is usually more than one assailant and use of a weapon. Serious injury is common and sometimes deadly.

## Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse

No one wants to have to tell children about sexual abuse. On the other hand, do we want children to learn about it from the abuser ?

### Parents:

- Be aware of people who want to spend too much time alone with your children
- Be aware of your child's friends, and who they spend time with Monitor their use of the internet
- Believe your kids, take time to talk with them and then listen.

### Angels with Broken Wings

"We must test you, not to see if you are good but to see if you'll stick with us through the long term to help us back into the land of the living, to mend the broken wing of this angel"

From a teenage client of S. McGee, LPC