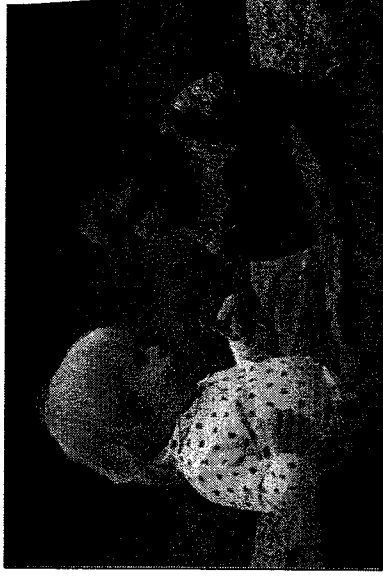


# It shouldn't hurt to be a child



## SIGNS OF NEGLECT

- Poor hygiene, odor
- Inappropriately dressed for weather
- Needs medical or dental care
- Left alone, unsupervised for long periods
- Failure to thrive, malnutrition
- Constant hunger, begs or steals food
- Extreme willingness to please
- Frequent absence from school
- Arrives early and stays late at school or play areas or other people's homes

## SIGNS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- Pain, swelling or itching in genital area
- Bruises, bleeding, discharge in genital area
- Difficulty walking or sitting, frequent urination, pain
- Stained or bloody underclothing
- Venereal disease
- Refusal to take part in gym or other exercises
- Poor peer relationships
- Unusual interest in sex for age
- Drastic change in school achievement
- Runaway or delinquent
- Regressive or childlike behavior

Services available to help the family and the child include counseling, in-home services, mental health and alcohol or drug abuse services, assistance or training in home and financial management, parent education and self-help groups. In severe situations, it may be necessary to temporarily place a child in out-of-home care.

A person who is mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect will be informed by the county what action, if any, was taken to protect the health, safety and welfare of the child who is the subject of the report.

## SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

Following are the major signs of physical and sexual abuse, emotional damage and neglect. One of these, or even several in combination, may not indicate that abuse has occurred. They may indicate accidents or that medical conditions, emotional illness or other problems exist. If a number of these signs occur together or if they reoccur frequently, child abuse and neglect may be suspected.

## SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Bruises, welts on face, neck, chest, back
- Injuries in the shape of object (belt, cord)
- Unexplained burns on palms, soles of feet, back
- Fractures that do not fit the story of how an injury occurred
- Delay in seeking medical help
- Extremes in behavior: very aggressive or withdrawn and shy
- Afraid to go home
- Frightened of parents
- Fearful of other adults

## SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL DAMAGE

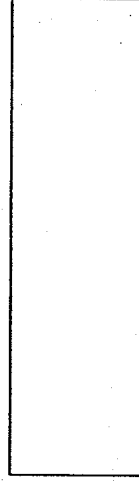
- Low self-esteem
- Self-denigration
- Severe depression
- Aggression
- Withdrawal
- Severe anxiety

... but sometimes it does

Ask Yourself How You Can Help

REPORT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services  
Division of Children and Family Services  
Bureau of Programs and Policies



County Department of Human/Social Services  
or the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

YOU CAN HELP!  
REPORT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Immediately contact your county department of social or human services, sheriff, or the local police.

## Wisconsin's Child Protective Services (CPS) System

The purposes of the CPS System are:

- To promote the well being of the child in his or her home setting, whenever possible, or in another safe and stable placement;
- To assure that appropriate protective services are provided to abused and neglected children and their families and to protect children from further harm;
- To provide support, counseling and other services to children who have been abused or neglected and their families;
- To protect the health, safety and welfare of children by providing education on the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect.

Chapter 48 of Wisconsin's Statutes defines abuse as:

### Physical Abuse

Physical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means. Physical injury includes, but is not limited to, lacerations, fractured bones, burns, internal injuries, severe or frequent bruising or great bodily harm.

### Sexual Abuse

Sexual intercourse or sexual touching of a child, sexual exploitation, forced viewing of sexual activity, or permitting, allowing or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution.

### Emotional Damage

Harm to a child's psychological or intellectual functioning which is exhibited by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or aggression.

Emotional damage may be demonstrated by substantial and observable changes in behavior, emotional response or learning which are incompatible with the child's age or stage of development.

### Neglect

When a parent...or caretaker...fails, refuses or is unable, for reasons other than poverty, to provide the necessary care, food, clothing, medical or dental care which seriously endanger the physical health of the child.

### PERSONS REQUIRED TO REPORT ABUSE & NEGLECT: (Mandated Reporters)

- physicians
- coroners
- medical examiners
- nurses
- dentists
- chiropractors
- acupuncturists
- optometrists
- all medical & mental health professionals
- day care providers
- alcohol and other drug abuse counselors
- marriage & family therapists
- mediators under s. 767.11, Stats.
- treatment staff employed by or working under contract with a county department
- professional counselors
- physical therapists and physical therapist assistants
- occupational therapists
- dietitians
- speech therapists
- audiologists
- emergency medical technicians
- social or public assistance workers
- paramedics
- school administrators, teachers, counselors
- police and law enforcement officers
- CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
- child care workers in any day care center, group home or residential care center

Mandated reporters are required to report suspected abuse and neglect of any child they see while in the course of their professional duties. They must also report those situations in which they have reason to believe that a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect is likely to occur.

Any other person may report if there is reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected or has been threatened with abuse or neglect.

### Penalty

Persons required to report and who intentionally fail to report suspected child abuse or neglect may be fined up to \$1,000 or imprisoned for up to 6 months or both.

Persons who report in good faith are immune from civil or criminal liability.

### REPORTING IS NOT "MEDDLING"

Deciding to get involved in a situation of suspected abuse or neglect can be difficult. It is, however, a decision that may be crucial to a child not only today, but also in the future. Parents who have abused or neglected their children may need services and support to provide safe care for their children.

### HOW TO REPORT

Contact your county social/human services department, sheriff, or local police department immediately - by telephone or in person.

### WHAT TO REPORT

Explain, as well as you can, what happened or is happening to the child. Describe the nature of the abuse or neglect. Be as specific as possible.

Be prepared to give the name, address, and telephone number of the child and also the name of the parent or caretaker. Even if you do not know all of this information, report what you do know.

Tell all you know about the situation.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

A social worker from the county department of social/human services, an agency under contract with the county department or the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare will work with the parents and assess the situation to determine if any support or assistance is needed to protect the child and help the family.

## **STAYING SAFE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In 1997, the State of Wisconsin enacted the Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Law. This law was created to monitor and track people convicted of sex crimes and to provide access to this information for police, victims and the general public. It is believed that holding sexual offenders accountable for their whereabouts and activities, and making their presence known in community settings, will help decrease acts of sexual violence in our communities.

Although this law is an important step toward ending sexual violence in our communities, it only applies to people convicted of these crimes. It is equally important to raise public awareness in identifying and preventing sexual violence that has not been reported to the authorities. It is also crucial to be informed and educated about ways in which we, as individual citizens, can help protect ourselves and our loved ones from sexual assault.

Staying Safe was created to help people learn ways to reduce and stop the damage caused by sexual violence. Some of the information is about responding to sexual violence that has already occurred. Other information is about stopping sexual violence BEFORE it starts. Staying Safe provides basic suggestions and steps that can be used to keep ourselves and our loved ones as safe as possible from sexual violence.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT? ..... 3  
WHERE DOES SEXUAL ASSAULT HAPPEN?..... 3  
WHO GETS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED? ..... 3  
WHO COMMITS SEXUAL ASSAULT? ..... 3  
WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ABUSE?..... 4  
WHAT IF I THINK A CHILD HAS BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED?..... 6  
WHAT Can I DO IF THE VICTIM IS AN ADULT? ..... 6  
HOW CAN I PROTECT A CHILD FROM SEXUAL ABUSE? ..... 7  
HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT?..... 8  
At Home..... 8  
While Traveling ..... 8  
Social Situations..... 9  
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM SEXUALLY ASSAULTED?..... 9  
RESOURCES ..... 10  
CREDITS..... 11

## **WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?**

Sexual assault is any sexual contact between people that is unwanted, not consented to, or forced. Sexual assault includes a wide range of behaviors in which a victim is tricked, threatened, or manipulated into doing something sexual.

Sexual assault generally refers to adults. It can include marital/partner rape, date rape, and rape by a stranger. It can also include other kinds of unwanted sexual behavior like touching of private areas, or being forced to touch someone else's private areas.

Sexual abuse is sexual assault. Sexual abuse is a term generally used to describe sexual activity between an adult and a child. Sexual abuse often occurs over a period of time. It can include sexual touching, sexual intercourse, and other kinds of unwanted sexual behavior.

**Myth** Sexual assault always involves violence, threats, or use of a weapon.

**Fact** Sexual assault does not have to include threats, violence or weapons. **IF THE SEXUAL CONTACT IS UNWANTED, THEN THE SEXUAL CONTACT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT!**

**Myth** Sexual activities with a child that are gentle (rather than violent or forceful) will not cause lasting harm to the child.

**Fact** Many sex offenders develop a relationship with a child in order to trick or manipulate the child into participating in sexual activity. This is called GROOMING. Even if there is no force, children are harmed because someone they knew and trusted hurt and betrayed them.

## **WHERE DOES SEXUAL ASSAULT HAPPEN?**

Sexual assault happens every day. It happens in the streets, in private residences, in public areas, and in places of business.

## **WHO GETS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED?**

Sexual assault can happen to anyone. It happens to females and males, rich and poor, young and old, educated and non-educated, and people of all ethnic and racial backgrounds. Sexual assault shatters the comfortable feeling people have that nothing like this could ever happen to them or to someone they love.

**Myth** People often cry rape to get attention or to get back at someone.

**Fact** False accusations of sexual assault happen in about 2% of all cases. This is similar to the number of false reports of other violent crimes. It is far more common for a victim of sexual assault to not report the crime to anyone.

## **WHO COMMITS SEXUAL ASSAULT?**

Just like victims, sex offenders come from all ethnic and racial groups, all ages, and all social classes. Most sex offenders are male, but some females also sexually assault others.

The majority of sex offenders know their victims before they assault them. In fact, more than one-fourth of those who sexually assaulted a child were a member of that child's household.

**Myth** Sex offenders only assault their victims because they don't have a good sexual relationship with a consenting adult.

Fact There are many reasons people commit sexual assaults. The main reason is often the power and control the offender feels during the assault. Research indicates that most people who sexually abused or assaulted children were also in a consenting sexual relationship with an adult.

### **WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ABUSE?**

Recognizing sexual assault is not always easy, especially if the victim is a child. A child's reaction can differ depending on his or her age, personality, and the nature of the offense. Sometimes child victims do not appear upset by crimes that seem very serious to adults. Inside however, they might be frightened, angry, or confused.

Child victims are sometimes afraid to tell anyone about what has happened, especially if the offender is a close friend or family member. They might be afraid that people will be angry at them, that it is their fault that the abuse happened, or that no one will believe them. They might also be afraid that the offender will do something bad to them or their family if they tell.

Adult victims of sexual assault can also experience fear, shame, and guilt about being sexually assaulted. Therefore, they may delay reporting the incident, or they may not report it at all.

Myth If someone says that they were sexually assaulted and then takes back the statement, they were lying about being assaulted in the first place.

Fact Fear, shame and guilt can cause victims to change their story about being sexually assaulted.

Many times, an offender will tell their victims...

That something bad will happen if the victim tells

That the offender will hurt or kill the victim or the victim's family

That no one will believe the victim

That parents and friends won't like the victim any more

That reporting the abuse will break up the family and the victim will have to live someplace else

That the family won't have enough money to live on if the offender goes to jail

Some victims think they abuse/assault was their fault, and they feel ashamed, guilty, or embarrassed about it. These are just some of the reasons victims might take back what they first said about being sexually assaulted.

Myth Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers.

Fact Statistics show that approximately 90% of all acts of sexual violence are committed by people known to the victim.

Victims of sexual abuse can display a variety of physical, emotional, and behavioral signs.

It is important to keep in mind that some of the following signs can be the result of problems that are not related to sexual abuse. Also, some victims do not display any outward signs that they have been sexually abused.

Physical signs of sexual abuse in children may include...

Unexplained injury, pain, or irritation in the genital area

Stained or bloody underclothing

Pregnancy

Sexually transmitted disease

Behavioral signs of sexual abuse in children may include...

Unexplained or sudden fear of a particular person

Unexplained or sudden fear of certain places

Return to "babyish habits, like thumb sucking, bedwetting, ect.

Unexplained or sudden self-consciousness about genitals, including becoming upset by bathing and diapering

Sudden knowledge and/or display of sexual words/behaviors that are not appropriate to their age group including acting out sexual behavior with toys, animals, or people  
Any other sudden or unexplained change in a child's behavior

### **WHAT IF I THINK A CHILD HAS BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED?**

There is no "right" way to respond to a child who has been or might have been sexually abused. However, the following can help the victim start healing right away.

Listen to the child. How adults respond to a child victim is very important to the child's recovery from the trauma of sexual abuse. It can be hard to listen to or understand a child's report of the abuse. Their complaints, explanations, and descriptions may be unclear, confusing, or seem to make no sense. It can also be difficult for an adult to hear about the abuse because it may remind them of their own history of being sexually abused, or the offender might be a close friend or family member. The important thing is to make sure that children are able to tell their story to someone who can help protect them from further abuse, and help them start to feel safe again. Some things that you can say to help a child tell you what has happened are:

"Tell me more. I'm listening."

"You did the right thing telling me about this."

"Take your time, I will listen for as long as you need me to."

Believe the child. When a child tells you he or she has been sexually abused, your first reaction may be disbelief. Children sometimes tell lies, but it is very rare for a child to make up and report sexual activity with an adult. The child's description might sound confused and/or have some "holes" or gaps in it. This is common and does not mean that the child is lying.

It is also common for a victim to delay reporting the sexual abuse, especially if the offender has made threats that something bad would happen if he or she told. The abuse might have happened days, weeks, months, or even years prior to the victim telling you. Again, this is not a sign of lying. This is a common reaction to the child's fear and confusion.

It is very important to take a child's story seriously, even if the offender is someone you thought you could trust. Some things you can say to reassure a child that you believe him or her and are taking the story seriously are:

"I believe you."

"I'm glad you told me what happened to you."

Keep your reaction calm and reassuring. When a child tells you what has happened to him or her, you might feel angry, shocked, disgusted, or panicked. It is important that you appear calm, reassuring, and caring. This will help the child feel comfortable telling you about the abuse. It will also give the child the message that nothing is so terrible that he or she can't tell someone about it.

If you appear very angry or upset when the child is telling you about the abuse, he or she might think that you are feeling that way toward them, instead of the offender. A child might also decide to live with an abusive situation rather than risk upsetting you.

Make sure that if you do react strongly, the child knows that your negative feelings are about the offender, not about him or her. Some things you can say are:

"I know this is hard to talk about. I'm glad you're telling me."

"You look very scared. I'm proud of you for being brave and telling me what has happened to you."

"I'm happy you're telling me about this, so that I can help keep you safe."

Let the child know the abuse is not his or her fault, and the child hasn't done anything wrong. It is Never the child's fault when sexual activity happens with an adult. No matter what the offender says, if sexual activity occurred, the adult is fully responsible. Sometimes, if an offender bribed, tricked, or convinced a child to do something sexual, the child may

believe it's his or her fault that the abuse happened. Even if no physical force was used, or the child "agreed" to the sexual behavior, the child needs to know that it was wrong for the adult to behave this way, and that the child is not bad, responsible, or at fault because of how the abuse happened.

It is understandable that an adult would be very angry and upset if a child was sexually abused. However, it is very important that the child knows that you are angry and upset with the offender, not with him or her. Some things that you can say to the child to help him or her understand this are:

"I'm angry with \_\_\_\_\_ for doing this to you."

"I'm not angry with you, I'm upset about what happened to you."

"It's not your fault that this happened."

"He was wrong for doing that to you."

"It makes me mad that someone would hurt you."

Report abuse to the police. Keeping a child safe must be your first priority. Not reporting the abuse of a child to the police may lead to continued abuse of the child as well as others. It is important to report the sexual abuse no matter how long ago it happened. Many sex offenses can be prosecuted years later.

Sometimes, people are worried that involving the police could create a situation that will cause more trauma to the child. It is important to know that you can be in control of the situation to make sure that the child's needs are met. Many police departments have specially trained officers that investigate child sexual abuse. They know how to interview children so they feel less frightened, shy, or uncomfortable.

Some ways you can help a child through the process are:

Ask the police and/or the child protection worker to videotape the child's statement, so that it can be used by others. This will prevent the child from having to tell and retell his or her story to many different people.

Request that you be put in touch with the Victim/Witness Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office. A Victim/Witness Coordinator is specially trained to help others understand the legal process and will be able to offer support and referrals to counselors and others who can help. They can also make sure that you are aware of court dates and other important information.

**Myth** Sexual abuse by a stranger is more harmful than sexual abuse by a known and trusted adult.

**Fact** It is often more traumatic to be abused by someone the victim knows because the victim trusts the offender, and sexual assault is a huge violation of that trust.

When the offender is a close friend, family member, or a member of the household, as is the case with many sexual assaults, some people might feel reluctant to contact the police. They may feel "torn" between loyalty to the child and loyalty to the offender, especially if the offender is their spouse. They might also be afraid of the disruption that could be created in the family or household if the police are brought into the situation. However, a child in this situation is the most vulnerable to further abuse and trauma. Children depend on non-offending adults to make sure they are safe, secure, and protected. Protecting the vulnerable child is more of a priority than "keeping peace" in the family. The child will not have any "peace" unless you take steps to provide it.

#### **WHAT CAN I DO IF THE VICTIM IS AN ADULT?**

Child and adult victims have similar needs. They need to be believed. They need to know that they are not responsible for being sexually assaulted. They need to have support for what they have gone through, and they need to be allowed to express themselves freely. When friends and family ask, "What can I do to help?" Some common responses are, "Just listen," "Spend time with me," "Believe me," "Don't crowd me - give me some breathing room," and, "Help me start getting some control back over my life." Acknowledging victims' feelings, respecting their need for privacy and their need for time to heal, and "being there" emotionally for them can be



among the most important things to offer an adult victim. Victims may also appreciate it if you accompany them through the criminal justice process. Encouraging them to seek professional counseling can also be helpful.

Sexual assault can also have a big impact on the victim's spouse, children, family, and friends. Offers of support, assistance, and a safe place to share their feelings about what has happened to their loved one can also be helpful. Often, professional counseling can help not only the victims, but also the other significant people in their lives, cope with the aftermath of a sexual assault.

## **HOW CAN I PROTECT A CHILD FROM SEXUAL ABUSE?**

While it is impossible for any of us to guarantee that the people we love will never become a victim of sexual assault, there are many ways people can reduce the risk for children. Here are some suggestions for keeping children safe:

**Mindful supervision:** The way that you supervise a child is the best protection against sexual abuse. Even though you can't control everything having to do with a child, you can be alert to many potentially dangerous situations by keeping the following tips in mind:

Be aware of where children are and what they are doing. Of course, you can't be with them all the time, so ask another responsible adult to watch them when you can't be there. If you can't find adult supervision, arrange for the children to walk or play in a group.

Know who is with the child. If you hire a new baby sitter, ask for and check references. Ask about people who offer the child a job, particularly if it involves work in their home. Ask child care providers if they have conducted criminal background checks on all staff and volunteers working for them.

Get to know the child's friends, particularly if they are somewhat older than the child.

Trust your instincts. If something just doesn't feel right, pay attention to the feeling. Talk to the child about your feeling, and check into any situation that makes you feel uncomfortable or uncertain.

Supervise the child's use of the Internet. Some offenders use the Internet to form relationships with children so that they can later meet them and have sexual contact with them.

Teach the "First Rule of Safety" as an absolute/always rule. Before a child can go anywhere, the person responsible for the child at the time must know "The 3 W's":

- WHERE the child is going,
- WHO the child will be with, and
- WHEN the child will be back.

The child should know at all times how to reach you or someone you trust. However, a child may need to ask for immediate help from a stranger. It is important to talk to children about strangers, because a stranger might be the only help available to children in an emergency. It is a good idea to talk to children about situations that could be dangerous. You can help a child look at different options by asking questions like these:

If you got lost in a store, who could you ask for help?

If someone you thought was really nice asked you to go somewhere or do something without telling me, what would you do?

If some kids asked you to go to the park with them, what would you do first?

If you were really cold or wet, and you were walking home from school and one of our neighbors offered you a ride, what would you do?

If someone in a care asked you for directions and then seemed to be following you, what could you do?

If someone came up to you and told you something bad happened and that you were suppose to go with them, what could you do to check that out?

If you didn't know someone, but the person seemed really nice, and asked you to help them find their lost puppy or kitten, what would you do?

By creating "if" situations for children and problem solving in advance, you help children feel confident and prepared so they are not frozen in fear or uncertainty.

Teach children that no one has the right to touch them in a way that is painful, uncomfortable, upsetting, or confusing to them.

If someone does, they should tell you immediately.

## **HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT?**

Myth Sexual assault is a "spur of the moment" or spontaneous act.

Fact Up to 71% of rapes are clearly planned.

Personal safety is often a matter of making choices about our own habits and behavior. Here are some choices you could make to increase your safety:

### **At Home**

Be aware of your surroundings. Know who is coming and going - who belongs and who doesn't.

Make sure that entrances, garages, yards, and hallways are well lit. Leave a porch light on at night or when you leave and might not get home until after it is dark.

Keep your doors locked even when you are in your home. Change your locks when you move into a new home. Always lock your doors when you are outside your home, even if you are nearby.

Don't allow people you don't know into your house. If a stranger asks to use your telephone, don't let him or her in; offer to make an emergency call yourself. If a repair person comes to your door, ask to see some identification. If you let someone in and have second thoughts, be assertive. Tell the person to leave or leave yourself.

Make sure that your windows cannot be opened by a stranger. Hardware stores sell inexpensive window locks for this purpose. A nail or dowel inserted in the runner of the window will also work.

Always pull your shades at night. This will prevent someone from determining if you are alone.

List only your last name and first initial on your mailbox, door, and in phone directories. If you receive an obscene phone call, hang up immediately and report the call to the police.

When you arrive home, be aware of places where someone may be hiding, like under stairs, in or under a car, or in bushes. If you find a broken door or window, or if something seems amiss, do not enter your home. Leave immediately and call the police.

### **While Traveling**

When walking, let somebody know where you are going, how long you expect to be gone, and what to do if you are late.

Plan your route in advance to include well lit areas where people are present. Avoid areas that are unlit, isolated, or have many hiding places like shrubbery, alleys, or parking lots.

Be alert. Walk with confidence at a steady pace. Try to keep your hands free. When stopping at a crosswalk or for any other reason, keep scanning the area around you.

Wear clothes or shoes that allow you to run, if necessary.

Try to limit the number of items you carry.

Carry something that can make a loud noise to scare off an attacker, like a whistle or a shriek alarm.

Keep your house keys and car keys separate from each other.

Keep all keys separate from your purse.

Walk with someone you know, if possible.

When driving, keep your car in good condition, with the gas tank at least half full.

Lock your doors as soon as you are in your car.

If you have car trouble, get out briefly to raise the hood. Stay in the car with the doors locked until help arrives.

If someone stops to help you, do not open your door or window or accept a ride. Ask the person to call for help.

Never pick up hitchhikers. If you see someone having car trouble, offer to send for help. Do not offer the person a ride.

Park as close to your destination as possible. Always park in a well lit area, and remember where you park.

Have your keys ready, and walk directly to your car. As you approach, scan the area around and under your car. Before you get in, check the back seat and the floor.

### **Social Situations**

Be careful about your use of alcohol and drugs. You are more vulnerable to assault if you are drunk or high.

Communicate your limits about sexual behavior firmly and clearly. You have the right to say no to any unwanted sexual contact.

Trust your feelings. If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, leave the situation immediately and go to a safe place.

Attend large parties with friends you can trust. Try to leave the party with a group rather than alone or with someone you don't know well.

When you start dating a new person, have the first few dates in a public place, and meet him or her there, rather than at your home.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM SEXUALLY ASSAULTED?**

Sexual assault is neither "asked for" nor deserved. "Giving in" to sexual activity is NOT the same as consenting. Do what you must to survive. A victim is NEVER responsible for an assault. Do not blame yourself for being assaulted.

Go immediately to a safe place. Try not to damage potential evidence. Do not bathe, wash, shower, douche, or change or discard clothes.

Strongly consider reporting the assault to the police.

Strongly consider making contact with your local sexual assault treatment center or rape crisis center. They can assist you with information, support, and counseling whether or not you call the police. Any contact you have with them is completely confidential.

## RESOURCES

### **WI Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services and Programs**

3099 E Washington Avenue  
PO Box 7925  
Madison, WI 53707-7925  
800-947-5777 (toll free)  
608-240-5888 (Madison area)  
WIVictimsVoice.org

Please contact this office for more information about victim services and programs provided by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

### **Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA)**

123 E. Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-257-1516 Voice/TTY  
608-257-2150 Fax  
www.wcasa.org

Contact WCASA for more information about sexual violence and for referral to the local sexual assault service provider program nearest you. These local programs can provide victims of sexual violence and their families with information, support and advocacy services.

### **Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of Crime Victim Services**

PO Box 7951  
Madison, WI 53707  
608-264-9497  
800-446-6564 (toll free)

Contact this office for information related to financial assistance to eligible crime victims and funding to support victim assistance to individual victims of crime.

### **Wisconsin Committee to Prevent Child Abuse**

214 N. Hamilton Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-256-3374

Contact this organization for information and resources for parents and communities interested in the prevention of child abuse.

### **WI Department of Corrections Sex Offender Registry Program (SORP)**

3099 E Washington Avenue  
PO Box 7925  
Madison, WI 53707-7925  
877-234-0085 (toll free)

Contact SORP for more information regarding the sex Offender Registry or to obtain more copies of this and other publications.

## CREDITS

Much of the information contained in this booklet comes from individual, organizational and professional sources. Appreciation and acknowledgement of these contributions are given to the following:

1. Aikins, Natalie, Madison Police Department Safety Education Unit, "*Suggestions for Parents Concerned About Teaching Children Protective Behaviors.*"
2. Staff from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault.
3. Arseneau, Janine, "*Context of Sexual Assault/Abuse in Milwaukee.*" Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, September 1997; "*The Emotional Aftermath of Sexual Assault.*" Milwaukee Sinia-Samaritan Sexual Assault Treatment Center, March, 1995.
4. "*Reactions to Sexual Assault,*" Sinia-Samaritan Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI, March, 1995.
5. "*Protective Behaviors.*" Wisconsin Committee to Prevent Child Abuse.
6. "*He Told Me Not To Tell.*" King Co. Rape Relief, Renton, WA.
7. "*Concerning Our Kids: A Guide For Parents To Teach Their Children How To Protect Themselves.*" Printed as a Community Service of Channel 12.
8. "*Signs and Symptoms of Sexual Abuse*" reprinted in part with revisions from Holly Ramsey-Klausnik, PH.D.
9. West, Peg Flandreau "*The Basic Essentials: Protective Behaviors Anti-Victimization & Empowerment Process.*" Madison, WI 1984.
10. American Medical Association's Home Page - Guidelines for Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment, on the World Wide Web.



Wisconsin Department of Corrections Sex Offender Registry

**YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW**

**SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY**

**Information Access for Victims**

**VINE Access Line**

**1-800-398-2403**

*A Service to Help Protect Wisconsin's Citizens*

Beginning June 1, 1997, persons convicted of a felony sex offense are required to register with the Department of Corrections. For at least 15 years following the expiration of their sentence, offenders must update information regarding their residence, employment, and school enrollment.

**Victims, or members of their family**, have a right to access information regarding the offender of their crime through the Sex Offender Registry. This information is available 24 hours a day by calling the **Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)** toll-free telephone number (1-800-398-2403) and entering your assigned victim ID number.

If you do not have a victim ID number, please contact the Victim/Witness Coordinator or District Attorney in the county of sentencing or the Department of Corrections, Office of Victim Services and Program's toll free number at (800) 947-5777 or, if in the Madison area, at (608) 240-5888.

**INFORMATION YOU WILL RECEIVE FROM THE REGISTRY**

- v Verification the offender committed an offense requiring registration
- v Date information was last updated
- v Identifying Information
  - Offender's name and any known aliases
- v Location Information
  - Address of residence
  - Name and address of place of employment (if employed)
  - Name and address of school (if enrolled)
- v Status Information
  - If the offender is in custody and where
  - Name and phone number of the supervising unit or the contact agency
  - If the offender has absconded or is not in compliance with the Registry requirements

An **absconder** is an offender whose whereabouts are unknown and who has not reported to supervision as required. If you have any information on the offender's whereabouts, you are encouraged to contact your local law enforcement officials or the Department of Corrections Sex Offender Registry Program at (877) 234-0085 (toll free).

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW**

- v The Registry only contains information on offenders who have been convicted, adjudicated delinquent or committed for a crime specified under the registration law. The information is specific to offenders convicted of certain sex crime and who, on or after 12/25/93, were:
  - Sentenced;
  - In an institution;
  - On community supervision; or
  - Discharged from their sentence.
  
- v The Registry **does not** contain information on all convicted sex offenders or those individuals whose sexually violent behaviors that have not come to the attention of the authorities.
- v Please note: it may take up to 60 days after the offender is sentenced before information is available in the Registry and VINE systems.

It is illegal to use information obtained through the Registry to harass, discriminate or commit a crime against any registrant.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**WI Department of Corrections**  
**Sex Offender Registry Program (SORP)**  
3099 E Washington Avenue  
PO Box 7925  
Madison, WI 53707-7925  
877-234-0085 (toll free)

**WI Department of Corrections**  
**Office of Victim Services and Programs**  
3099 E Washington Avenue  
PO Box 7925  
Madison, WI 53707-7925  
800-947-5777 (toll free)  
608-240-5888 (Madison area)  
WIVictimsVoice.org



**Wisconsin Department of Corrections  
Sex Offender Registry Program**

**REQUEST TO RECEIVE  
WRITTEN NOTIFICATION**

You are encouraged to call 1-800-398-2403 to access the Sex Offender Registry at any time. However, if you want to receive **written notification** of any change in the offender's home address, complete and mail this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Home Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

State

Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your VINE victim ID number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Offender's Name (first, middle, last)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Offender's Number (if known)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date

Mail completed form to:

**WI Department of Corrections  
Sex Offender Registry Program (SORP)**  
3099 E Washington Avenue  
PO Box 7925  
Madison, WI 53707-7925

**Victim information will be maintained as confidential.**



**Wisconsin Department of Corrections Publication**A black rectangular button with the text "Go Back" in white, centered on the page.**CHECK IT OUT!****WISCONSIN SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY INFORMATION****Information Access for Victims  
VOICE/VINE Toll Free Access Line****1-800-398-2403***A Service to Help Protect Wisconsin's Citizens*

Beginning June 1, 1997, Wisconsin Act 440, the Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification law, provides the public with automated access to information about offenders who are required to register with the Department of Corrections. Registration serves as a means for monitoring and tracking an offender's whereabouts. Providing access to the Registry information for law enforcement agencies, victims, public/private organizations and the general public is intended to promote public safety and help detect and prevent crime. Access to the Registry is provided by the Department of Corrections through the Sex Offender Registry Program.

**REGISTRY INFORMATION ACCESS IS...**available through a toll free 24-hour automated information system designed to provide community organizations, employers, and the general public with a means to directly access the Registry to find out whether a specific person is a registered sex offender.

**REGISTRY INFORMATION ACCESS IS NOT...**a crime hot line to report suspected criminal activity or a system to provide a list of offenders who reside in your neighborhood.

**NOTE**

The Registry only contains information on offenders convicted of certain sex crimes who, on or after 12/25/93, were:

- Sentenced;
- In an institutional setting;
- Discharged; or
- On community supervision.

**WHAT YOU WILL HEAR**

After you dial 1-800-398-2403, you will be asked to enter your Victim Identification Number (VIN). If you do not have a VIN, you will then be given a choice to either obtain instructions on how to proceed in accessing information or to directly proceed to the Registry access system.

If you do not have a Victim Identification Number, you will be told the following:

- Information maintained in the Registry only includes information on certain offenders since December 25, 1993;
- Use of this information to commit a crime against any registrant or to engage in any illegal discrimination or harassment is prohibited; and

- The number you have called is not a crime hot line and that any suspected criminal activity should be reported to local authorities.

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED

If you do not have a **Victim Identification Number**, you must be prepared to provide the following information regarding the person(s) whom you are inquiring about:

- \*the person's full name
- \*exact birth date, and either
- social security number, or
- driver's license number.

\*required information

It is necessary to have the above information on the person(s) you are inquiring about, in order to ensure that a reliable search is made against the database, and that information provided to the caller is accurate. The purpose of requiring specific identifying information is to create a safeguard from providing false or misleading information from the Registry.

Providing insufficient or incomplete identifying information will lead to an inconclusive search of the Registry.

Victims, or members of their family, have a right to access information regarding the offender of their crime through the Sex Offender Registry. This information is available 24 hours a day by calling the VOICE/VINE toll-free telephone number (1-800-398-2403) and entering your assigned victim ID number. If you do not have a victim ID number, please contact the Victim/Witness Coordinator or District Attorney in the county of sentencing or the Department of Corrections, Office of Victim Services and Programs' toll free number at 1-800-947-5777 or, if in the Madison area, at 608-240-5888.

Since the system will prompt you to enter this information on a telephone keypad, it is recommended that you take the time to write this information out and convert letters to correspond to the numbers on the keypad. For example, "PERSON" is "737766" on your touch tone telephone. Use the "1" key for Q and Z.

### WHAT INFORMATION YOU WILL RECEIVE

Information made available to community agencies, organizations and the general public through this toll free number includes:

- Verification if the person is on the Registry, and if yes,
- Date information was last updated
- Registrant name and any known aliases
- Conviction which requires registration, date of conviction and the state convicted in
- Registry status indicating if the registrant is not in compliance with the Registry requirements, as prescribed by law
- Name and phone number of supervising unit if the registrant is under current supervision by the Department of Corrections

Callers with a Victim Identification Number will have access to additional information.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW**

- It is illegal to use information obtained through the Registry to commit a crime against any registrant or to engage in any illegal discrimination or harassment.
- The registrant's address will not be provided, nor will any victim information be disclosed. The Registry will not provide information or identify those individuals who were adjudicated under a juvenile court proceeding or who are under the age of 18.

The Registry does not contain information on all convicted sex offenders or those individuals whose sexually violent behaviors have not come to the attention of the authorities. The information contained in the Registry is limited by the effective date of the law (12/25/93) and to those offenders who have been arrested and convicted, adjudicated or committed for a crime specified under the law. Please consider these limitations when obtaining information from the Registry.

*For more information or paper copies of this booklet contact:*

**WI Department of Corrections**  
Sex Offender Registry Program (SORP)  
3099 E Washington Avenue  
PO Box 7925  
Madison, WI 53707-7925  
1-877-234-0085 (toll free)

**WI Department of Corrections**  
Office of Victim Services and Programs  
3099 E Washington Avenue  
PO Box 7925  
Madison, WI 53707-7925  
1-800-947-5777 (toll free)  
608-240-5888 (Madison area)  
WIVictimsVoice.org

**CHECK IT OUT!**  
**1-800-398-2403**

This publication brought to you by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections



Wisconsin Department of Corrections Publication

[Go Back](#)

**Keeping  
You  
Informed**

Truth in Sentencing  
and  
Release Information

Office of Victim Services and Programs  
Department of Corrections  
PO Box 7925  
Madison WI 53707-7925

---

**TRUTH IN SENTENCING INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS**

The Truth in Sentencing law became effective as of December 31, 1999.

What happens when a Judge sentences someone to prison under the Truth in Sentencing law?

Any person who commits a FELONY on or after December 31, 1999, and is sentenced to at least one year of confinement in prison would have their prison time followed by a period of extended supervision upon release.

Offenders will not have their sentence reduced for good behavior and are not eligible for parole; however offenders who violate prison rules may have additional days added to the confinement portion of their sentence. Once an offender completes the confinement portion of the sentence, he/she will be released and will be supervised by a Department of Corrections (DOC) agent. This supervision period is referred to as extended supervision (ES).

**EXTENDED SUPERVISION**

When released from an institution or correctional center to extended supervision, the offender must report to a Division of Community Corrections Agent. The agent's responsibilities are to enforce the rules of supervision and assist the offender in solving problems.

If the offender violates the rules of supervision, the offender may be placed in jail while the agent investigates the violation. A serious violation may result in an extended supervision revocation, which means the offender will return to an institution or correctional center. If the violation does not result in revocation, the agent may take other action, such as imposing new rules of supervision or requiring the offender to participate in additional treatment or counseling. For further information about the offender's supervision, you may contact the offender's supervising agent.

### **INPUT INTO THE CONDITIONS OF EXTENDED SUPERVISION**

You may wish to express your concerns and/or feelings regarding the offender's release and the conditions of extended supervision. You may do so by writing to the Office of Victim Services and Programs. The agent will consider your input in determining the conditions of release when the offender is released and placed on extended supervision.

As the victim of a crime, you have these rights:

To be informed when an offender will be released from an institution or correctional center.

To be informed if an offender escapes from an institution or correctional center.

To exercise your rights and enroll for information and notification.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Your name and address will be kept confidential. Information you submit to the Department of Corrections, Office of Victim Services and Programs will be placed in a confidential file.

### **VOICE/VINE**

VOICE stands for Verbal/Visual Offender Information Center. VOICE is an informational service for you, designed and maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Office of Victim Services and Programs (OVSP). VOICE is a database of information which includes the VINE telephone service, as well as a communication tool that can be accessed by you in two different ways once you enroll:

Via the Internet at [www.victimsvoice.org](http://www.victimsvoice.org) Automated telephone system at 1-800-398-2403

### **YOU MUST ENROLL IF YOU WANT NOTICE**

If you wish to receive notification regarding the offender's status, i.e. release from an institution or correctional center, escape, apprehension, death, etc. you must complete a VOICE/VINE enrollment card and mail it as indicated on the card, as soon as possible. Also, if you wish to have access to information via the toll-free phone number or the Internet, you must enroll. You may want to send in a VOICE/VINE enrollment card even if the offender is placed on probation, because if the offender does not follow the rules set by the Probation Agent, the offender may be "revoked" and sent to jail or prison. This will ensure that you are notified regarding such a change.

In addition, if you are or ever have been protected from this offender by a restraining order, injunction or no contact order and you want to know when the offender will be released, you must enroll in VOICE/VINE.

If you change your address, or if you no longer want notification, you must notify the Office of Victim Services and Programs, by sending in a new VOICE/VINE enrollment card indicating the requested change.

You can get a new VOICE/VINE card from your District Attorney's Office or the Department of Corrections, Office of Victim Services and Programs. A change of address form is also available on the Internet at [WIVictimsVoice.org](http://WIVictimsVoice.org)

### **INFORMATION YOU WILL RECEIVE**



If you send in a VOICE/VINE enrollment card, you will be notified when the offender is released from an institution or correctional center or if the offender escapes. In addition, you may indicate on the card your choices regarding other types of notification.

The letter you receive notifying you of the release, will also provide you with the address and phone number of the Division of Community Corrections Unit where the offender will be supervised during the period of extended supervision.

## **RESTITUTION**

### **What about restitution?**

If found guilty, the court shall order the offender to pay for financial losses you suffered as a result of the crime. During the sentencing hearing, the court shall inquire of the District Attorney information regarding the amount of restitution, if any.

### **If the court has ordered restitution, how will I get paid?**

When an offender makes payments, these are forwarded to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Cashiers Office. The Cashiers Office issues a check, which is then sent to you. In order to keep your address confidential, the offender does not make payments directly to you.

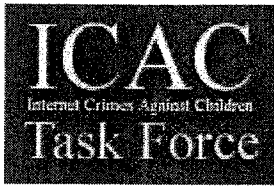
If you have questions about restitution, contact the DOC Office of Victim Services and Programs or you may contact the DOC Division of Community Corrections office in your area if the offender was placed on probation or is on supervision.

### **Is there any other way to recover my losses?**

Filing a civil law suit is another option for recovering losses. Civil recovery is an action that is separate from the criminal prosecution. Filing a civil action does not stop you from requesting restitution at the time of sentencing in the criminal case. You may contact your Clerk of Courts for information about filing instructions and fees, damage limits and the time frame in which you have to file.

This publication brought to you by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections





## Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Unit

### Division of Criminal Investigation

The Wisconsin Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force is a national leader in fighting Internet crimes against children. Total arrests for 2005 were 120 — exceeding a previous national ICAC task force record.

In September 1998, the U.S. Department of Justice began a national Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force program to counter the emerging threat of offenders using the Internet or other online technology to sexually exploit children. Under this program, regional ICAC task forces serve as sources of prevention, education and investigative expertise to provide assistance to parents, teachers, law enforcement and other professionals working on child victimization issues. Wisconsin's ICAC Task Force has been administered through the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation since its inception in the spring of 1999.

### Wisconsin ICAC Task Force

- Wisconsin ICAC Task Force
  - [An Overview](#)
  - [Summary](#)
  - [Major Cases](#)
  - [Statistics](#)
  - [Training](#)
- [Wisconsin ICAC Affiliates](#)

### Internet Safety

#### Internet Safety Pledge [PDF]

- Kindergarten - Grade 2 [\[English\]](#) [\[Spanish/Español\]](#)
- Grades 3-6 [\[English\]](#) [\[Spanish/Español\]](#)
- Middle School and High School [\[English\]](#) [\[Spanish/Español\]](#)

- [NetSmartz](#)

NetSmartz was developed by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Boys & Girls Clubs of America to teach children and teens how to be safer when using the Internet. The purpose of NetSmartz is to increase the safety awareness of children to prevent victimization and increase self-confidence whenever they go online.

- [For Parents: Safety Tips and Child Exploitation Trends](#)

of America to teach children and teens how to be safer when using the Internet. The purpose of NetSmartz is to increase the safety awareness of children to prevent victimization and increase self-confidence whenever they go online.

- [For Parents: Safety Tips and Child Exploitation Trends](#)



## For Parents

### Safety Tips:

- The best way to protect your children online is through creating and maintaining open lines of communication. Internet safety is about parenting — software programs alone will not protect your children.
- Prepare your children for the online world as you would the real world. Talk to them about dangers and risks online. Talk with your children about their online activity, including the websites they are visiting, the people they are communicating with, the information they are posting about themselves, and any situations that make them feel scared, uncomfortable or confused.
- Establish a positive relationship with your children before someone else does. Online predators will tell your children that they love them — you should do the same.
- Place computers in common areas where supervision can occur.
- Sign an Internet safety pledge with your child. ...link to pledge section
- Create and post Internet use guidelines and rules.
- Know your child's passwords, screen names and account information.
- Advise your children against downloading items from unknown sources. The items may be inappropriate for your children to see, may contain copyrighted material, or may infect your computer with viruses.
- Learn as much as you can about the Internet and the places your children are visiting. Keep current on child exploitation trends on the Internet.
- Report online child exploitation incidents to the CyberTipline, contact the Wisconsin ICAC Task Force at 608-266-1671, or call local law enforcement.

### Child Exploitation Trends:

- myspace.com and other Internet social networking sites t on child exploitation trends on the Internet.
- Report online child exploitation incidents to the CyberTipline, contact the Wisconsin ICAC Task Force at 608-266-1671, or call local law enforcement.

### Child Exploitation Trends:

- myspace.com and other Internet social networking sites



## Office of Crime Victim Services

### Resources for Victims & Witnesses

The period following a crime can be very difficult but there is help. In Wisconsin, crime victims and witnesses have rights providing certain privileges and protections. The Office of Crime Victim Services can help you understand these rights and help you access the services you need.

### Special Topics & FAQ's

Crime Victim/Witness Rights	State Programs
-----------------------------	----------------

- [List of Rights](#)  
[English \[PDF\]](#)  
[Spanish \[PDF\]](#)

- [Crime Victim Compensation Application](#)  
[English \[PDF\]](#)  
[Spanish \[PDF\]](#)

- [Links to Victims Rights Laws & Enforcement in Wisconsin](#)

- [The Crime Victim Compensation Program](#)  
[English \[PDF\]](#)  
[Spanish \[PDF\]](#)  
[Hmong \[PDF\]](#)

- [Brochure: "Rights and Services"](#)  
[English \[PDF\]](#)  
[Hmong \[PDF\]](#)  
[Spanish \[PDF\]](#)

- [Programs Providing Statewide Victim Services](#)

- [Victims' Rights & System Responsibilities](#)

- [Department of Justice Victim Resource Center](#)

- [Know Your Rights - A Reference for Victims of Domestic Violence](#)  
[English \[PDF\]](#)  
[Spanish \[PDF\]](#)

- [Victims' Rights and Criminal Appeals](#)

Local Service Providers	Special Topics & FAQ's
-------------------------	------------------------

#### ***Victim Service Agencies***

- [General Index, By Counties](#)
- [Victim/Witness Assistance Programs](#)
- [Programs Serving Domestic Violence Victims](#)
- [Programs Serving Sexual Assault Victims](#)
- [Programs Serving Child Abuse Victims](#)
- [Programs Serving Survivors of Homicide](#)
- [Victims/Drunk Driving Victims](#)

- [Crime Victim Compensation FAQ's](#)
- [Crime Victims Rights Board FAQ's](#)
- [Criminal Appeals FAQ's](#)
- [Criminal Court FAQ's](#)
- [Dealing with the Media](#)
- [Domestic Violence Information & Services](#)
- [How a Crime is Prosecuted](#)
- [Juvenile Court FAQ's](#)
- [Restraining Orders FAQ's](#)

[Restitution FAQ's](#)

[Stalking Information & Services](#)

[Victims' Rights: For Law Enforcement](#)

[Victim Notification & Sexually Violent Persons - DHFS Brochure](#)

[I am being Prosecuted](#)

● [Juvenile Court FAQ's](#)

● [Restraining Orders FAQ's](#)

● [Restitution FAQ's](#)

● [Stalking Information & Services](#)

● [Victims' Rights: For Law Enforcement](#)

● [Victim Notification & Sexually Violent Persons - DHFS Brochure](#)