

No one has the right to touch you in ways that make you feel uncomfortable. No one has the right to trick you, confuse you, or force you into doing sexual things. This is called sexual abuse.

SEXUAL ASSAULT INFORMATION

Approximately six children are reported abused and neglected in America every minute (more than 3 million abuse reports a year).

Some kids are afraid to report the abuse because they fear punishment, loss of love, or family dishonor for telling a secret.

SEXUAL ASSAULT OF CHILDREN

Convicted rape and sexual assault offenders serving time in State prisons report that two-thirds of their victims were under the age of 18.

One of every seven victims of sexual assault reported to law enforcement agencies were under age six.

Among rape victims less than 12 years of age, 90% of the children knew the offender.

Frequently, the person who sexually molests a child is also a child.

40% of the offenders who sexually assaulted children under age 6 were under the age of 18.

Sexual abuse includes someone touching your private parts or making you touch theirs. It can also include rape or other things that make you feel uncomfortable. It is *not true* that sexual abuse happens because “the abuser cannot control his sexual urges.” The abuser knows what they are doing, and they make a choice to abuse their position of trust and power.

The first thing to remember is that it isn't your fault, no matter what. The abuser is always responsible for the abuse. It's very hard to know what to do when someone hurts you like this. It doesn't make you a bad person, and you don't deserve to be treated in this way. Unfortunately, many children and young people experience sexual abuse. It's against the law for anyone to treat you like this.

Sexual abuse can be very confusing. The person doing the abuse might be someone you trust. By treating you like this, they've betrayed your trust in them, and this is very wrong.

Also, often the person who does it to you will tell you things like:

- “it's normal”
- “don't tell anyone”
- “it's our secret.”

This can make you feel frightened to tell anyone. But there are things you can do, and people you can talk to. You don't have to deal with this alone.

Sexual abusers can be:

- parents, siblings, or other relatives
- childcare professionals
- clergy, teachers, or athletic coaches
- neighbors or friends
- strangers

**KEEPING
YOURSELF SAFE**

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE BEEN
RAPED**

- Make sure you get to safety.
- Seek medical attention.
- Call the police and/or a rape crisis hotline.
- Do not bathe or otherwise disturb evidence.
- Stay calm and write down the details of the assault.

If you suspect you have been drugged, go immediately to a hospital emergency room and request appropriate tests.

How can I get help if I am a child or teen who is being abused? Call:

DCFCareline..... 1-800-842-2288
The Child Abuse and Neglect Careline operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline1-888-999-5545
The CT Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Emergency services number.....911

DOC PREA Hotline...1-770-743-7783
This hotline is operated by the Department of Correction 24 hours a day and seven days a week, and it is exclusively to make reports of sexual abuse.

1. Keep your head up. Keep your head moving. Look around you, scan left to right and back again. Don't be afraid to take a look behind.

2. Make eye contact. All of this looking around leads to one thing: seeing and identifying people. Let them know that you're aware of them. The last thing a rapist wants is for you to see him coming.

3. Trust your instincts. You have a built-in sixth sense that you should pay attention to. If you see someone that sets off your internal alarms, pay attention to the warning and *get away*.

4. Keep your distance. Rape can hardly be called a long distance crime. It's as up close and personal as it gets! Never allow anyone to intrude on your personal space - that area that exists within a two to five foot circle around you.

5. Stay away from dangerous areas. Dark and deserted equals danger! Keep away from areas that are poorly lighted, sparsely traveled or isolated from activity.

6. If you're approached, remember that you have weapons at your disposal. Use your voice to scream, kick with your feet, use anything in your hands to hit.

7. What if he's armed? Only you can decide whether or not to fight against an armed rapist. There is no one in the world who can give you the right answer because every situation is different. If you do choose to fight, use everything you have, you may be fighting for your life.

If you would like more information concerning these issues ask any facility staff.