

PREVENTION --

These tips will help you make your child's environment safer:

- X Know where your children are at all times, and know who their friends are.
- X Be on the lookout for teenagers or adults paying an unusual amount of attention or time, or giving gifts to your child.
- X Teach your child that no one should touch them in the private areas of their bodies.
- X Choose your baby-sitters carefully.

Parents are encouraged to discuss this information with their children to ensure safe environments at home and during recreational activities.

WHAT TO DO --

If any of the danger signs are present, sit down and talk to your child.

Sometimes older children will be reluctant to discuss an incident due to embarrassment, especially boys, so you need to show love and compassion.

Call your local Indiana State Police post or any other law enforcement agency in the area. We have trained investigators who will talk with you and your child.

INDIANA STATE POLICE

PHONE NUMBERS

Lowell (13)1-800-552-8917
Lafayette (14)1-800-382-7537
Peru (16)1-800-382-0689
Toll Road (21)1-800-421-4912
Fort Wayne (22)1-800-552-0976
Bremen (24)1-800-552-2959
Bloomington (33)1-800-423-1286
Jasper (34)1-800-742-7475
Evansville (35)1-800-852-3970
Versailles (42)1-800-566-6704
Sellersburg (45)1-800-872-6743
Pendleton (51)1-800-527-4752
Indianapolis (52)1-800-582-8440
Putnamville (53)1-800-225-8576



INDIANA STATE POLICE
IGCN - Room 340N
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2259
(317) 232-8250

CHILD MOLESTATION



WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW

VICTIMS --

Boys and girls are victims of child molestation, in all age groups ranging from infants to teenagers. When an adult molests a child, it is not an expression of love. Often, the adult is looking for sexual gratification or a sense of control. Children do not imagine sexual acts unless they have experienced them.

NOT ALWAYS A STRANGER

Teaching your child to avoid strangers is not enough. Eighty percent of all children molested are abused by someone they know. Teach your children to be assertive and say no to strangers and others who might exploit them. Child protection is the responsibility of everyone.

Encourage a safe environment by listening and supporting your children.



DETECTING THE SIGNS --

Some signs that your child might be in danger are:

- X Tells stories of a sexual nature
- X Acting out sexual activities - touching or fondling private areas
- X Change of behavior - withdrawn, silly, unruly, destructive
- X Acts rebellious, running away, or fighting
- X Change in eating habits
- X Pain, itching, discharge, unexplained bruises, bleeding, change in walking
- X Fear of certain places/people - strangers, relatives, baby-sitters
- X Bed-wetting, nightmares, and other sleep disturbances



TEACH --

Teach children to stay away from strangers, especially ones who are seeking assistance or help from a child, also ones who offer money and gifts to them. Parents, it is better to teach a child about situations/actions than trying to explain what an individual may look like. Teach your children about their bodies; no one should touch them in their private parts, no matter who it is. Also, teach them that it is not right for them to touch anyone there either. Children should not be asked to take their clothes off for an adult unless a child is being assisted by their parent or guardian in taking a bath or changing clothes. Children should be taught not to keep any secrets from their parents or guardian. Many times the offender will have the child make a promise not to tell anyone; that it is a secret. Most of all, provide and encourage an environment where children listen to their feelings. If they do not feel right about the way someone touches them, then they should tell someone immediately.

