ERIN’S LAW

Safe Passage
DeKalb County’s Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Center
WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?
What is child sexual abuse?

Child sexual abuse includes -

Touching behaviors:
  • Any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors, when one exerts power over the other.
  • Forcing, coercing, or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act.

Non-touching behaviors:
  • Non-contact acts such as exposure to pornography and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or through the internet.
Statistics and facts for child sexual abuse

- Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face, with very serious consequences.
  - 70% of child sex offenders have 1-9 victims, 20% have 10-40 victims.

- About one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.
  - About one in seven girls and one in 25 boys.

- About 38% of child victims disclose the fact that they have been sexually abused. Some never disclose.
• As many as 40% of children who are sexually abused are abused by older, or more powerful children.

• The younger the child victim, the more likely it is that the perpetrator is a juvenile.
  • Juveniles are the offenders in 43% of assaults on children under age six.

• A small number of juvenile offenders — 1 out of 8 — are younger than age 12.

• Most adolescent sex offenders are not sexual predators and will not go on to become adult offenders.
Is it the child’s fault if...

- They thought they were in a “dating relationship” with the older child/adult?

- The older child/adult gives the child money or gifts after the abuse occurs?

- The child knowingly consumes drugs or alcohol before the abuse occurs?
• Child sexual abuse always includes physical contact.
• Only 1 in 20 kids will experience child sexual abuse before age 18.
• Every child victim will disclose their abuse at some point.
• 40% of children who experience abuse are abused by older children.
• Most adolescent offenders will become adult offenders.
• Sometimes children are to blame when they’ve experienced sexual abuse.
HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

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RAISE A RED FLAG

We’re going to use red flags to signal the warning signs of an unhealthy or abusive relationship. After each relationship situation, raise your red flag if you think the behavior is concerning in any way.
Characteristics of a healthy relationship…

• Says I love you
• Asks you what you want to do on the weekend
• Makes an effort to get to know your friends and family
• Cheers you on at games or recitals
• Understands that no means no
• Compliments you
• Makes you laugh when you’re sad
• Respects your opinions
• Is proud when you succeed
Red Flags

• Lies to you about where he/she is going
• Gets jealous if you talk to someone else
• Constantly accuses you of cheating when you haven’t
• Puts you down
• Makes decisions for you
• Seems obsessed with you
• Blames you for things that go wrong
• Says no one else would ever want to be with you
• Criticizes you
• Breaks things in anger

• Wants to know where you are at all times
• Pressures you to do things you don’t want to do
• Makes you feel guilty for having outside interests
• Threatens you when you don’t do what he/she says
• Tracks you down when he/she can’t find you
• Expects you to stop seeing your friends
• Calls you names
• Pushes you around
• Thinks your interests are stupid
• Tells you that you’re lucky to have him/her
• Hits you
Safe Passage
DeKalb County’s Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Center

• 24 hour hotline: 815-756-5228
  • Free and confidential services
    • Counseling
    • Legal assistance
    • Medical advocacy
    • Partner Abuse Intervention
    • Prevention and Community Education

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