ERIN'S LAW

SAFE PASSAGE
DEKalb COUNTY'S RAPE CRISIS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER
STATISTICS AND FACTS FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

• 1 out of 10 kids will experience child sexual abuse before they turn 18
• About 90% of victims know their abuser
  – The younger the victim, the more likely it is that the abuser is a family member
• About 60% are abused by people the family trusts
• There are more victims between the ages of eight and twelve than any other group
WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

• Sexual abuse can include both touching and non-touching behaviors.
  – Touching behaviors may involve any touching of private parts, including your mouth.
  – Non-touching behaviors can include trying to look at a child’s naked body, or asking them to look at an adult’s body, or exposing the child to pornography.

• Abusers often do not use physical force, but may disguise abuse by playing games, tricking kids, or threatening them to keep the secret.
WHY DON’T KIDS ALWAYS TELL RIGHT AWAY?

• There are many reasons children do not disclose being sexually abused, including:
  – Threats of harm (to the child and/or the child’s family)
  – Fear of being removed from the home
  – Fear of not being believed
  – Shame or guilt
  – Sometimes the child may not know that what happened wasn’t okay
IS IT THE CHILD’S FAULT IF…
MYTH OR FACT?

• There are more victims between the ages of eight and twelve than in any other group
• You’re more likely to be sexually abused by someone you know than by a stranger
• Victims always tell right away after experiencing abuse
• If a friend tells you they’ve been abused you should tell an adult right away, even if you promised to keep it a secret
• Sexual abuse only happens to girls
• It is never the victims fault if they have been abused
• Someone will act differently after experiencing sexual abuse
• Victims of sexual abuse can, and do, recover
• Only adults sexually abuse children
• If you’re confused about something that has happened to you, it’s a good idea to talk to an adult that you trust
THAT'S NOT LOVE

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• You talk openly about problems and listen to one another. You respect each other’s opinions.
• You value each other as you are.
• You believe what your partner has to say. You do not feel the need to “prove” each other’s trustworthiness.
• You are honest with each other, but can still keep some things private.
• You make decisions together and hold each other to the same standard.
• You enjoy spending time apart, alone, or with others. You respect each other’s need for time apart.
• You talk openly about sexual respect. All partners willingly consent to sexual activity and can safely discuss what they are or are not comfortable with.
• When problems arise, you fight or you don’t discuss them at all.
• One or more partners is not considerate of the other.
• One partner doesn’t believe what the other says, or feels entitled to invade their privacy.
• One or more partners tells lies.
• One partner feels their desires and choices are more important.
• Your partner’s community is the only one you socialize in.
• One partner uses pressure or guilt on the other to do anything sexual at any point.
• Communicates in a way that is hurtful, threatening, insulting, or demeaning.
• One partner does not respect the feelings, thoughts, decisions, opinions, or physical safety of the other.
• The partner who accuses may hurt the other in a physical or verbal way as a result.
• Tries to blame the other for the harm they’re doing, or makes excuses for abusive actions, or minimizes abusive behavior.
• One partner makes all decisions for the couple with the other’s input.
• One partner controls where the other one goes and who they talk to. They may isolate their partner from family and friends.
• One partner forces the other to do anything they don’t want to do sexually at any point.
• 24 hour hotline: 815-756-5228
  – Free and confidential services
    • Counseling
    • Legal assistance
    • Medical advocacy
    • Partner Abuse Intervention
    • Prevention and Community Education

• Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
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