

4 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO STAY SAFE

Abuse is a serious matter and we must work together to keep everyone safe. Here are four things students need to know to prevent and respond to abuse.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

If you see or suspect child abuse

1-800-25-ABUSE

800-252-2873

OFFICE OF STUDENT PROTECTIONS AND TITLE IX

If you need help or advice

773-535-4400

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

If you see or suspect
child abuse by an adult

773-483-7283

1 YOUR BODY. YOUR BOUNDARIES.

- Your body belongs to you and no one has a right to touch you without your permission. It's never your fault.
- Respect your fellow students' bodies and boundaries at all times.

If you feel unsafe, talk to a trusted adult and report inappropriate behavior.

2 SPOT THE SIGNS OF PREDATORY BEHAVIOR

Abusers are not usually strangers. In 96% of abuse cases, the survivor knew the abuser according to the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center.

Predatory behavior may include:

- Giving gifts, calls, texts or unwanted attention
- Asking you to keep a secret
- Trying to spend alone time with you
- Telling inappropriate stories or jokes
- Trying to engage in sexual acts

If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, talk to a trusted adult immediately and report inappropriate behavior.

3 RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF ABUSE

Be curious about concerning changes in your friend's mood or behavior. Speak up if something doesn't seem right and keep your eyes open for these warning signs:

- Consistent, unexplained fear and avoidance of specific people
- Abuse of drugs or alcohol
- Frequent one-on-one time with a particular adult
- Aggression, irritability or rage
- Sadness and withdrawal from school, friends, and other things that once made the person happy
- Self-harm behaviors and/or suicidal thoughts

4 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR IMMEDIATELY

Talk to a trusted adult. Any concerned person should call the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) if you see or suspect child abuse. Mandated Reporters, such as teachers and principals, are required to call DCFS immediately. **1-800-25-ABUSE** (800-252-2873)

Call the CPS Office of Student Protections & Title IX if a DCFS report has been made and you need immediate help or advice. **773-535-4400**

You can also contact the Office of the Inspector General if you see or suspect child abuse by an adult. **773-483-7283**

You can find more information at: cps.edu/protectingstudents and chicagocac.org