IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF ABUSE:

• Always report any suspicions of child abuse
  You may save a child from further harm if you report your suspicions. If you have questions or you want to report suspicions of child abuse, call the Department of Children and Families Child-At-Risk Hotline at 800-792-5200 or your local police department.

IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE TO YOU:

• Remain calm and thank the child for telling someone
  The child has undergone a potentially traumatic experience and could be more frightened by your response than the abuse itself. Be sure to thank the child for being honest and courageous enough to tell someone.

• Be sure to acknowledge that it is not the child’s fault
  Child abuse is NEVER the fault of the victim. The child may feel ashamed and embarrassed or feel that they allowed the abuse to happen. Explain to the child that it is not their fault. They are not to blame and they are not in trouble.

• Encourage the child to talk openly
  In abuse situations a child tends not to trust people as easily, because the abuser has violated that trust. But once a child discloses abuse, he or she may feel like a weight is lifted off them. Encourage them to talk freely with you or someone they trust about what happened without pressuring them for answers.

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVERS

Child abuse affects the entire family.

Oftentimes, caregivers will ignore their own needs once abuse occurs in a family. If you find yourself in the position of needing to care for a child abuse victim and hold a family together, you must remember to take care of yourself as well. Talk to someone about the abuse, schedule self-care time, or join a support group.

Always know that Children’s Cove can make an appropriate mental health referral for caregivers as well.

1 in 5 children will be sexually solicited while online.

Children's COVE

Providing Hope and Healing for Abused Children

PARTNER AGENCIES

The Cape & Islands District Attorney
Department of Children & Families
Department of Mental Health
Cape Cod Healthcare

Contact Children’s Cove for more information:
508-375-0410 • info@childrenscove.org
childrenscove.org

Providing Hope and Healing for Abused Children

10.2019

childrenscove.org
Established in 1997, Children’s Cove is a nationally accredited, child-friendly facility designed, staffed and equipped to provide comprehensive and coordinated multidisciplinary services to child and youth victims of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, witness to domestic violence and commercial sexual exploitation.

The multidisciplinary services are provided in cooperation with our partner agencies that include The Cape & Islands District Attorney, Department of Children and Families, Department of Mental Health as well as local and state law enforcement.

As pioneers of this innovative and collaborative approach, Children’s Cove provides a single location for child and youth victims to tell their story; and for both the victims and non-offending caregivers to receive support and start the healing process.

1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

90% of child victims are abused by someone they know and trust.

1 in 4 girls will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

1 in 4 girls will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.