

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.

1 in 5 children will be sexually solicited while online.

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.



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



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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.

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

- A child-friendly, non-leading, non-traumatizing interview of child and youth victims is conducted in a neutral location and a comfortable environment to obtain an impartial account of the child's abuse that is accurate without causing further trauma to the child.

MEDICAL SERVICES

- Children's Cove is staffed by an experienced Nurse Practitioner specializing in pediatric and adolescent sexual abuse and forensic evidence collection.
- On-site emergency and non-emergency forensic medical exams are available to all victims of suspected sexual or physical abuse.
- All medical services are provided in collaboration with Cape Cod Healthcare and are free of charge.

COUNSELING REFERRALS

- Provides information and referrals regarding trauma informed mental health treatment.
- Works as a liaison between the family and the service provider as the family begins the healing process.
- Provides referrals to other community resources to assist your child and family.

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

ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- Coordination, advocacy and support throughout the criminal justice process.
- Provides information on victim's rights including victim compensation and protective matters as well as general support for child and youth victims and their family.
- Referrals and information for other community resources.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Provides professional training to partner agencies as well as child and youth-serving organizations such as child day-care centers, schools, pediatricians, and recreational programs to aid in recognizing, reporting and responding to child abuse.
- Provides community awareness and prevention education to community members, faith organizations and service providers to improve the Cape and Islands response to child abuse.

ADVOCACY FOR ALL

- All services provided by Children's Cove are free of charge.
- All services provided by Children's Cove meet the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Interpreter services are provided in person or over the phone for anyone who accesses our services.

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

IF 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.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – how to recognize it, how to respond to it, and steps to take to prevent it – visit childrenscove.org