

What is Child Sexual Assault?

Child Sexual Assault is a crime that happens all too often and leaves devastating scars on innocent children. Child Sexual Assault does not discriminate, leaving virtually no group untouched. It is a crime of trust, with 93% of perpetrators being known to their child victim. That means friends, family and others close to a child can in fact be the ones hurting them. But child sexual assault is preventable. Prevention starts by creating an open environment where children can share freely. Join our mission to end this terrible crime and together we can stop the pain.



Get Help & Get Connected



Blue Sky Bridge is the Child Advocacy Center serving Boulder County. To ask a question, get advice, or simply talk, call 303-444-1388 or visit blueskybridge.org.



Member Agencies:

- Blue Sky Bridge
- Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services
- Boulder County District Attorney
- Boulder County Sheriff
- Boulder Police Department
- Boulder Valley School District
- Erie Police Department
- Lafayette Police Department
- LEVI (Longmont Ending Violence Initiative)
- Longmont Police Department
- Louisville Police Department
- St. Vrain Valley School District
- University of Colorado Police Department



To report suspected child abuse, sexual assault or neglect contact:



www.BoCoPinwheel.org

Project Pinwheel is a group of agencies working together to prevent and reduce child sexual assault in our community.

“Childhood should be carefree, playing in the sun: not living a nightmare in the darkness of the soul.” -Dave Pelzer

The Essentials

Sexual abuse is committed by adults and by youth against other youth. It is important that you know the following:

- One in ten children will be sexually abused before age 18 and only 10% of those will tell someone.
- It will most likely be someone the child knows and trusts who abuses them.
- Child sexual abuse can involve both touching and non-touching behaviors. For a list of those behaviors, see www.bocopinwheel.org.
- Child sexual abuse often starts with a gradual process called grooming. During this period the abuser builds rapport and gains trust with not only the child, but their caregiver.
- Supervision, honesty and vigilance are essential to prevention.
- If a child discloses abuse to you, the most important thing you can do for the child is believe them.
- Reporting the abuse is crucial and in most cases, mandated by law.



Prevention Tips

Keep it Real

- Always use correct words for body parts.
- Start open conversations with your children at an early age, even about sex.
- Practice polite ways to say no.
- Be honest and be available.

Reinforce the Bubble

- Teach your child that they are in control of their personal space.
- Explain and give examples of safe and unsafe touch.
- Have a child's back when they don't want physical contact with other adults.

Heads Up

- Pay attention to adults who are always trying to be alone with kids.
- Watch for an increase in physical contact between adults or older youth and children such as wrestling & roughhousing.
- Show up unannounced.
- Monitor your child for signs of abuse such as a dramatic change in behavior. See our website for specific warning signs.

Spill the Beans

- Make your home secret free. Remind your child it is NEVER okay for anyone to ask them to keep a secret.
- Tell your child that it is not just strangers who might hurt them. Even if it is someone they know, it is still wrong.
- Encourage your child to share their feelings, fears and experiences.

Don't Play Favorites

- Relatives, friends and family don't have a hall pass to break touching, secret or bubble rules.
- Mix it up. Groups are often safer. Offenders look for chances to be alone with kids.
- Believe the child before the "trusted" adult.

www.BoCoPinwheel.org



"Sex offenders rarely sneak into a house in the middle of the night. More often they come through the front door in the day, as friends and neighbors, priests, principals, teachers, doctors and coaches. They are invited into our homes time after time..."

-Anna C. Salter, PhD, Sex Offender Specialist