

Information about Child Sexual Abuse

Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas:

- 185 children will be victims of abuse today in Texas; 65,000 confirmed cases annually
- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys - abused before 18th birthday
- 95% know their perpetrator
- 25% were not old enough to attend kindergarten
- Eradication of child abuse begins with building informed, empowered communities with the courage to talk openly about child abuse.

Child Protective Services Principles for Intervention

- The first priority should always be to protect the child and to promote their recovery
- All children have a right to be safe and protected from sexual abuse
- Child sexual abuse is a criminal act
- A child should always be taken seriously if they allege abuse
- Children who have been sexually abused have the right and need to be in a safe supportive environment. They also have the right to legal and protective intervention and to counseling and treatment services.

Child Protective Services Effects of Child Abuse

- Medical problems such as sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, physical injury
- Emotional problems such as guilt, anger, hostility, anxiety, fear, shame, lowered self-esteem
- Behavioral problems such as aggression, delinquency, nightmares, eating and sleeping disorders
- School problems and truancy
- Long term consequences may include – isolation, relationship problems, depression, drug/alcohol abuse, eating disorders, suicide

Warning Signs of a Sexual Predator – Dr. Frank Lawlis

- Refusal to take responsibility for actions and blames others or circumstances for failures
- A sense of entitlement, manipulative
- Low self-esteem
- Need for power and control
- Lack of empathy
- Inability to form intimate relationships
- History of abuse
- Troubled childhood
- Deviant sexual behavior and attitudes
- Pedophiles are notoriously friendly, nice, kind, engaging and likeable.
- Pedophiles target their victims, through their family, school, house of worship, sports, and hobbies.
- Pedophiles are professional con artists and are experts at getting children and families to trust them.