



## **BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN**

- May be overly sophisticated (when compared to peers) in sexual knowledge and behavior.
- May try to be seductive with peers and adults.
- May be reluctant to dress for or participate in physical education class.
- May be extremely fearful of showers and restrooms because of association with molestation if it occurred there.
- May go into withdrawal, fantasy or infantile behavior, particularly a younger child.
- May have poor peer relationships, become delinquent, promiscuous, or run away, particularly an older child.

## **PHYSICAL INDICATORS OF SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN**

- May have venereal disease, especially a younger child.
- May complain of genital pain or itching.
- May have evidence of physical trauma, bruises or bleeding in the genital or anal area.
- May exhibit difficulty in walking or sitting.
- If child is pregnant: refuses to reveal identity of the father of the baby, or family and child exhibit denial of pregnancy.

## **PHYSICAL INDICATORS OF ABUSED OR NEGLECTED CHILDREN**

- Has neglected appearance – poorly nourished, inadequately clothed, unclean, poor dental care, always seems as though no one cares.
- Shows bruises or welts that are unexplained, or the explanation is inconsistent with the injury.

## **BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF ABUSIVE PARENTS**

- Abusive parents often expect their children to satisfy many of their emotional needs. Parents may assume that their children have much greater maturity than they actually do have and that children are capable of meeting the parent's needs. This is called "role-reversal."
- Abusive parents are often social isolates, having few ties or contacts with friends or social organizations.
- Abusive parents are often immature, dependent, impulsively acting out. They may also have very low self-esteem and poor marital relationships.
- Abusive parents may often be physically isolated, having no phone, no car, and the drapes are always drawn.
- Abusive parents may have an alcohol or drug problem.
- Abusive parents may be overly involved with their child, seeing the child as an extension of their "self" who must be perfect.