

Facts About Sexual Abuse:

- Children seldom lie about sexual abuse.
- Children often fail to report abuse for fear that disclosure will bring consequence even worse than being victimized. Often the offender may be someone the victim loves very much.
- Child sexual abuse includes inappropriate kissing, touching, masturbation, oral sex, vaginal or anal contact or penetration, child pornography, or prostitution.
- Abuse may be a single incident, or may take place over a period of years. Both boys and girls are victims.

Child Abuse Statistics

- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before age 18.
- About 95% of victims know their perpetrators.
- About 90% never tell.
- The average age of the child seen at the CRC for sexual assault is 9 years old.
- It is estimated that there are 60 million survivors of child sexual abuse in America today.
- Approximately 400 children are assessed each year for sexual assault at the CRC.

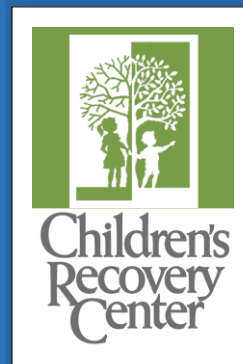
Report any suspected abuse to
Law Enforcement or
Social Services.

Horry County
Department of Social Services
(843) 915-4780

Horry County Police Department
(843) 915-5350

Georgetown County
Department of Social Services
(843) 546-5134

Georgetown County Sheriff's Office
(843) 546-5102



1801 Legion Street
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 448-3400
Fax: (843) 626-5040
www.childrensrecoverycenter.org

A Non-Profit
Community
Organization



Children's Recovery Center



A Multi-Disciplinary Center
that services children of
Horry-Georgetown
Counties.

The

ABC's

of the CRC!

A is for **Advocacy**
for Children

B is the **Building Block**
for Abuse for Recovery.

C is for **Coordinator**
of Community Collaboration.

Children who are possible victims of sexual assault have very special needs. Parents and other caretakers also have critical needs as well. The Children's Recovery Center addresses these needs.

The impact of a sexually abused child is felt throughout the community long after the child is seen at the Center. Efforts in prevention and education continue to be vital parts of Children's Recovery Center.

The CRC brings together the community professionals with the child and family in a child-friendly atmosphere. Our goal is to establish the best course of action through a multi-disciplinary team to include advocacy and treatment for the children.

The emotional trauma that children feel as they go through the experience of the examinations, investigations, and possible follow through with the legal system, is not easily overcome. The CRC helps to alleviate the anxiety and seeks to make the experience less traumatizing for the child and family.

What If I Think My Child Has Been Abused?

- Believe the child. Young children rarely lie about sexual abuse.
- Praise your child for telling you, but do not excessively question your child about details of the abuse. It is important to remain calm.
- Convey support for your child. A child's greatest fear is that he or she is at fault and responsible for the incident. Alleviating this self-blame is of top importance.
- Make sure your child knows that if someone does something confusing to them, like touching them, taking nude photos, or giving them gifts, you want to be told about it. Make sure the child knows that he or she is not to blame for whatever an adult does to them.



Your Feelings Are Important. How Are You Coping?



YOU are the single most important resource in your child's life. Your reaction will have an effect on your child's ability to cope with the situation. As a caretaker, you may find it difficult to handle your feelings. An allegation of sexual abuse is traumatic to a family. Your reaction may be quite complex and changeable, ranging from anger, guilt, and confusion to disbelief and blame. You may be afraid of family disruption, especially if the perpetrator is a family member. You may feel embarrassed that your friends may learn that this occurred in your family. You may be worried that your child may have emotional or physical problems affecting their future. If you were abused in the past you may find yourself faced with your own painful memories.

Emotional Signs of Sexual Abuse



Younger Children

- Nightmares or disturbed sleeping patterns
- Bed wetting
- Fecal soiling
- Fecal smearing
- Regression to more infantile behavior
- Withdrawing or clinging behavior

Older Children

- Change in school performance
- Eating disorders, sudden weight loss or gain
- Suicide attempts
- Self-mutilation - cutting with sharp objects
- Depression and withdrawal
- Poor self image
- Chemical abuse
- Running away or dislike toward going home
- Change in hygiene habits



Physical Signs of Sexual Abuse are Rare!