

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. If I report abuse, will anyone believe me?

Yes, If you report abuse, your case will be fully investigated to uncover evidence that proves what happened.

Q. Will the person that abused me be allowed to have contact with me?

No. After a report of abuse is made, the person who abused you is removed from contact with you during the facility's investigation. This does not mean that you will necessarily be released from the facility or moved to another facility, but you will be protected.

Q. Will the facility punish me or treat me different (retaliate) if I report abuse?

No. If you make a report of abuse and have told the truth, you should not be punished, treated differently or receive any discipline. You will be protected from further harm and the case will be investigated. If you are retaliated against, report it to a trustworthy adult immediately and and it will be investigated.

Q. Will I have to testify in court?

The facility and investigators will ask you questions about what happened. If the abuser faces criminal charges, then you may be asked to testify in court.

Q. Will reporting affect my juvenile court case, my detention or placement status?

No. Making a report of abuse will not extend your stay in detention, lengthen your probation term or change your current placement status.

Q. What if I lie about being abused?

All reports of abuse are taken very seriously and investigated thoroughly. Anyone who makes a false report may be charged with a serious

delinquent offense. Remember, reporting abuse is not a game and you should always tell the truth.

Q. What do I do if I am attacked?

Report the attack immediately. Request to see the nurse for medical attention. You may have serious injuries that you are not aware of, and any sexual contact can expose you to sexually transmitted diseases. Do not shower, brush your teeth, use the restroom or change your clothes until after you see the nurse. You may be destroying important evidence.

Q. What if the abuse happened at home?

If the abuse happened at home, at school or in your community, then you should report it to an adult you trust or to the Children's Division Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-392-3783 or to the police.

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GRIEVANCE SYSTEM

The St. Louis County Juvenile Detention Center's Grievance Policy is in place for you to voice your issues or problems with staff or other residents. It is your right to be able to grieve any inappropriate behavior or action of staff or other juveniles which constitutes a violation of your rights. The Detention Center's grievance system is always available if you do not feel comfortable talking to staff directly. If you report abuse this way, the Children's Division Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline Unit will be notified of your case and will conduct an investigation of the situation.

FAMILY COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

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FAMILY COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT

ABUSE IS A CRIME...TELL SOMEONE NOW!

WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE?

Sexual abuse is a sexual act committed against you or the intentional touching of your body in a sexual way by another person. Sexual abuse happens when someone asks you to flash or expose the private areas of your body or asks you or forces you to engage in sexual intercourse or other sexual behaviors.

DID YOU KNOW?

Rape and sexual abuse happens to people of all ages.

Rape and sexual abuse can happen to males and females. Sexual abuse is about power and violence. It is not about love.

Sexual abuse has nothing to do with sexual orientation.

Victims and offenders may be either heterosexual or homosexual.

It is common for survivors of sexual abuse to have feelings of embarrassment, anger, guilt, panic, depression and fear even several months or years after an attack.

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

No one has the right to ask you for a sexual favor or to have sex with you.

Avoid being isolated away from the main group where staff members can't see you.

Trust your gut feeling. If a situation feels wrong it most likely is.

Work to get yourself out of the situation, or leave the area and report it to staff.

Do not accept a gift, a loan or a favor.

Do not accept any offer of protection.

Do not tell your private information to other residents.

Do not be afraid to shout "NO" or "STOP IT".

Be aware of romantic or sexual gestures or talk.

Other residents in the facility may attempt to commit abuse against you. You have the right to be protected at all times from other juveniles in the facility. Report the abuse immediately.

Avoid talking about sex.

WHO CAN HELP?

If you are the victim of abuse, there are many people who want to help you. The important thing to remember is to tell an adult about the abuse or exploitation immediately.

If you see another resident being abused or you hear about someone else being abused, you should report this.

All abuse is wrong and everyone deserves to be protected at all times in our center.

Speak Up! Get Help! Tell the Facts!

TRUSTWORTHY ADULTS

In the Center, there are adults who you see every day that will help you and protect you. If you feel comfortable, you should talk to a staff member, counselor, teacher or medical professional and tell them if you have been abused. There are also many adults who may visit you in the facility that can also listen and help such as your attorney, your DJO, Chaplain, your parent, guardian or other family member.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

The Missouri Children's Division Hotline investigates abuse, neglect and exploitation in all Missouri juvenile justice facilities. There is a toll-free phone number **1-800-392-3738** to report abuse if you do not feel comfortable talking to someone in the facility. Your report will be investigated by the Hotline Unit if you report it to Center staff or if you call the Hotline directly.

The toll free phone number to report abuse is: **1-800-392-3738**

The Hotline phone line is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You do not have to give your name, but if you do, your name and your identity will be protected and kept confidential or secret.