

- Emphasize that your child did the right thing in telling you about the incident. Be aware that most molesters frighten children into silence by threats and by telling them that their parents will not love them anymore if they ever hear what the child has done.
- Offer support, comfort and sympathy without overreacting to the point that the child is frightened more by your reaction than by the incident itself.
- Be sure your child realizes that you believe what he/she had told you.
- Be aware that your child has been lured, tricked or forced into doing something that causes deep confusion and a strong sense of guilt and shame.
- Maintain an open communication with your child regarding the incident and do not pressure your child into talking.
- Please do not make statements such as:
  1. "I told you to come straight home."
  2. "Why did you keep going back?"
  3. "Mr. Jones is such a respected man, you must be making this up."
- Determine if your child has been physically injured and is in need of medical attention. Do not hesitate to seek professional counseling, for the entire family if necessary, after a child has undergone a sexual attack.
- When choosing a counselor, take into consideration that many have little knowledge in this area. Inquire as to the number of molestation victims they have worked with, type of treatment, and any other questions or doubts you might have. If your child is showing behavioral problems, unusual fears, or you feel he or she needs counseling, and a counselor says he/she is too young, find another counselor.

### Pennsylvania Statistics:

1,471 juvenile (under the age of 18) females and 174 juvenile males reported forcible rape victimizations in 2002. Of these victims, 251 females and 72 males were ten years old or younger.

#### Including all types of sex offenses and forcible rapes reported in Pennsylvania during 2002, there were:

9,700 female victims (1, 539 were ten years old or younger).

1,895 male victims (744 were ten years old or younger) (2002).

#### Offender relationships to their child victims in substantiated reports of sexual abuse:

27.3% parent (father/mother)

16% babysitter

13.4% household member

10.9% sibling

(Statistics obtained from PCAR website)



**STATE POLICE TERRORISM TIPLINE**

**1-(888)-292-1919**

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD



## BODY SAFETY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE  
BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
&  
BUREAU OF TRAINING & EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT



SP 5-336 (02/2005)

## “Body Safety” Tips:

Teach your Children:

- That no one has the right to touch the private parts on their bodies or make them feel uncomfortable. They have the right to say “No”.
- That adults do not come to children for help. Adults ask adults for help.
- Never to go near a car with someone in it, and never get into a car without parental permission.
- To make you aware of any unusual discussions or strange requests.
- To tell you when any adult asks them to keep a “secret”.



- Tell you of gifts and money given to them.
- When away from home, scared or uncomfortable, that they have the right to use the telephone without anyone else’s permission.
- To tell you of any situation where a statement or gesture is made about sex or love.
- Never answer the door when alone.
- Never admit to anyone over the telephone that they are home alone.
- That you will always believe them about being molested and will protect them from further harm. (Children do not normally lie about molestation.)

## As a Parent You Should:

- Question any money or gifts your child brings home.
- Ask your child who he or she is spending time with and the activities they engage in.
- Find out who your child’s best friend is, and why.
- Be watchful of any strong bond that seems to develop between your child and an adult figure in his/her life (including friends, teachers, coaches, clergymen, etc.).
- Avoid permitting your child to go on overnight trips alone with an adult you do not know.
- Maintain constant and regular telephone contact with your child whenever you or the child is away from home.
- Never leave your child unattended anywhere (day or night), especially in an automobile. This is illegal.
- Be involved in any sports or activities in which your child participates.
- Listen when your child tells you that he or she does not want to be/go with someone.
- Never make your child submit to physical contact (i.e., hugs, kisses, etc.) if your child does not want to. Children have the right to say NO!
- Understand that no one should be with your child more than you are. When someone is showing your child too much attention, ask yourself why.
- Be sensitive to any changes in your child’s behavior or attitudes. Encourage an open communication with your child. Never belittle any fear or concern your child may express to you. Never compromise any private or confidential matter your child may share with you.
- Teach your children to verify (with one of his/her parents) any request that is made of them.

## What Should You Do If Your Child Has Been Molested?

- Take your child to a private (safe) place and ask them what happened.
- Tell your child that you are sorry this happened, and you will protect him/her from further molestation.
- Respect your child’s privacy. Only discuss the molestation with trusted friends, and NEVER in front of your child.
- Notify authorities, even if the molester is a friend or relative. By doing this you may save another child from being victimized.
- Be supportive of your child. Demonstrate that your love, regard and respect for him/her has not been diminished or altered by the experience whether or not he/she has been tricked, lured or forced to participate.



- Make sure that your child understands fully that the blame and responsibility rests with the molester. Many children carry a great burden or fear and guilt after an attack. Many worry that it was somehow their fault, especially if the child continued contact with the molester after the first incident.