

Some Things To Know

- It happens to males and females of all ages.
- 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.
- Just because a victim of sexual abuse became sexually aroused does not mean he or she was not raped or gave consent. These reactions are normal and involuntary.
- It is common for survivors of sexual abuse to have feelings of embarrassment, anger, guilt, panic, depression, and fear following the event. These feelings may not surface for months or even years later.
- Residents cannot give consent to have sexual contact with staff.
- Sexual contact between staff and residents is not allowed and is a crime.

DJJ has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy toward any incident involving the sexual assault, sexual harassment, or rape of a resident and makes the prevention, detection and response to such incidents a priority in all its facilities.

**END THE
SILENCE**

SEXUAL ABUSE IS A CRIME...
Break the Silence... Tell Someone

Virginia's Department of Juvenile Justice
has a **ZERO-TOLERANCE** policy
regarding sexual abuse.

Report sexual abuse to a trusted adult immediately or
Dial #55 to call DJJ's Sexual Abuse Reporting Line.

The worst thing you can do is to do nothing ...
If it feels wrong, it is!!

ywca
richmond, virginia



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How To REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE



Virginia Department
of Juvenile Justice

One Team.
New Ideas.
Extraordinary Purpose.

If Abuse Happens To You, End The Silence

What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse is defined as a sexual act committed against your will that involves the intentional touching of your body in a sexual way by another person, including another resident. Sexual abuse includes a staff member or another adult in the facility asking you to engage in sexual intercourse or other sexual behaviors, threatening you with sexual intercourse or other sexual behaviors, or exposing the private areas of his/her body to you.

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment includes one resident making repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal comments, gestures or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature (including exposing himself or herself) to another resident. Sexual harassment also includes a staff or another adult making repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

What if the sexual act is with a facility staff member and is consensual?

Residents cannot give consent to have sexual contact with staff. Sexual acts of any kind between staff and residents are not permitted and are a crime.

Who commits abuse?

It is not easy to know what an abuser looks like. Abusers can be someone you know, a friend, a relative, or a stranger. Any person in a facility could commit abuse. Abusers are not always facility staff members. They can be visitors, volunteers, probation or parole officers, medical personnel, counselors, teachers, or other persons in the facility. Abuse committed by ANY person against you is wrong and should be reported immediately. No one deserves to be abused, and abuse is always a crime ... period.

How To Report

1. Tell someone you trust. Immediately!

In the facility, there are many adults you see every day who will help and protect you. You can tell a facility staff member, counselor, teacher, therapist, or medical professional. There are also many adults who may visit you in the facility who can listen and help: your attorney, parole officer, parent, guardian, or other family member.

2. Call Sexual Abuse Reporting Line.

If you don't feel comfortable talking to someone in the facility, you can dial #55 on the blue phones in your unit to report abuse. This number connects with DJJ's Ombudsman's office. The phone will be answered by a recording system. Leave a message with your name, facility, unit, and a detailed description of what you are reporting. Allegations are referred to the appropriate office for investigation. All sexual abuse reports are quickly and fully investigated. **If you have an emergency or immediate concerns for your safety, tell a staff member or write an emergency grievance to get help right away.**

If you have issues to report that are not about sexual abuse, **do not** use this line, but instead file a request or grievance.

3. File a grievance.

The grievance system is also an option to you for reporting sexual abuse. If you report abuse using the grievance system, the grievance coordinator will forward your grievance to the facility's administration. They will forward it to the appropriate office for investigation. **Remember, if you need help right away, file an emergency grievance.**

4. Call the Sexual Violence Program.

You may also report sexual abuse and sexual harassment to the Richmond YWCA Sexual Violence Program at (804) 643-0888. Your counselor will make arrangements for you to make this call. The crisis line is open 24 hours a day, and your report of sexual abuse and sexual harassment will be forwarded to agency officials immediately.

Q&A

If I report abuse, will anyone believe me?

Yes. If you report abuse, you will be believed; and your case will be fully investigated to uncover evidence about what happened.

Will the facility punish me or treat me differently (retaliate) if I report abuse?

No. If you make a report of abuse and have told the truth, you will not be punished, treated differently, or receive any discipline. You will be protected from further harm, and your case will be investigated. If you are treated differently, report it to a trustworthy adult, write a grievance, or call the reporting line number provided in this pamphlet.

Will I have to testify in court?

An investigator will ask you questions about what happened. If the abuser faces criminal charges, then you may be asked to testify in court.

Will reporting abuse affect my release or court review?

No. Making a report of abuse will not extend your length of stay, but you may change facilities.

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

What if the abuser is another resident?

Sexual abuse by other residents must be reported. You have a right to be protected at all times from other residents in the facility.

What if I see or hear about someone else being abused?

If you see or hear about another resident being abused, you should report it. All abuse is wrong, and everyone deserves to be protected at all times in a facility. You can help others by reporting abuse.