



Godly Response to Abuse  
in the Christian Environment

Safeguarding Training - Part 4

## Your Role in Prevention and Response

1

Protecting the  
vulnerable is an  
matter of  
discipleship.

2

We all play  
a role in  
upholding the  
boundaries of  
the policy.

3

When do we  
speak up about a  
concern or a  
policy violation?

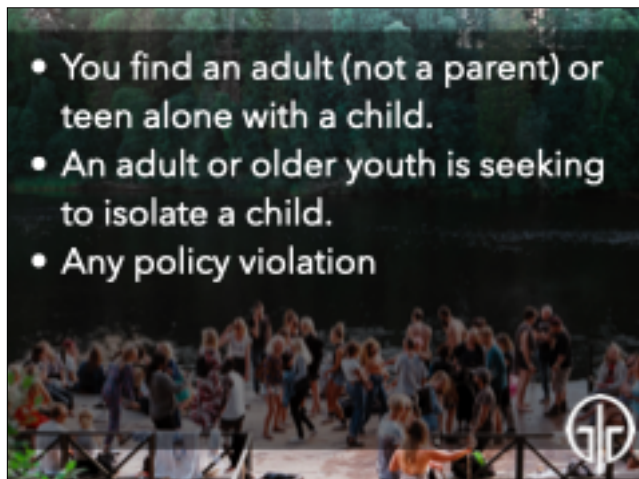
4

- A youth volunteer comments on the developing bodies of youth or is sharing about his sex life.
- An adult is touching a child or youth in a way they clearly aren't comfortable with or even after the child or an adult asks them to stop.

5

- An adult is fixated on a particular child or children in a way that makes you uncomfortable.
- An adult or older youth is often tickling kids
- An adult has been texting or meeting up with a youth alone.

6



7



8



9



10



11

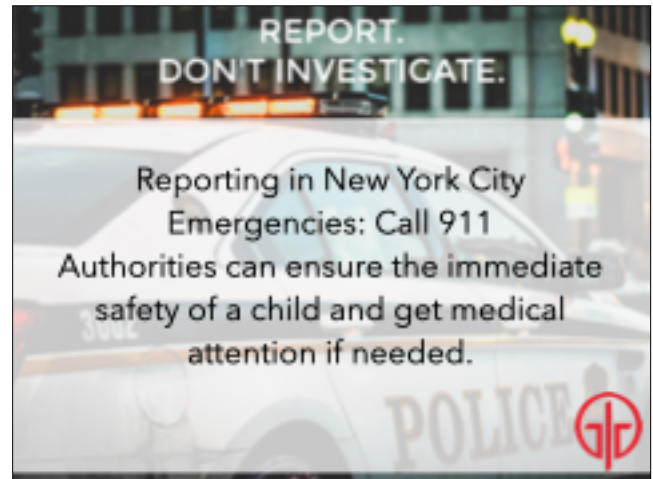


12





13



14



15



16



17



18



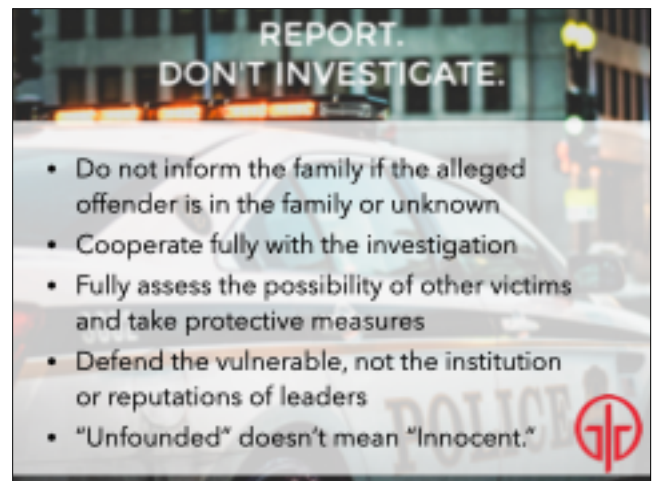
19



20



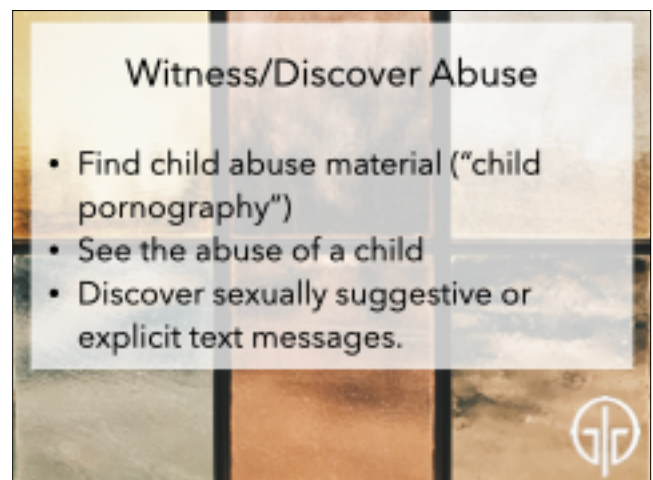
21



22



23



24



## Disclosure is a Process

- Disclosure is a process
- Children will "test the waters"
- Often begins with something small:  
"I don't like \_\_\_\_"  
"I don't want to go."



25

## Normal Disclosure Behavior:

- Non-disclosure
- Delayed disclosure
- Partial disclosure
- Accidental disclosure
- Unconvincing disclosure
- Recantation (about 1 in 4)



26

## Normal Disclosure Behavior:

- Ask open-ended questions
- Do not press for details (but it is ok to ask "Who?" or "What happened?")
- Do not ask leading questions: "Was it \_\_\_\_ person?" "Did he touch you there?"
- Do not ask, "Are you sure?"



27

## Disclosures of Abuse

- "I'm scared. Daddy gets mad and hits me."
- "Joey likes to touch penises together."
- "Mom said I get no food today."
- A teen tells you that their friend told them they "slept" with an adult.
- An adult or teen admits to abuse.



28

## Reasonable Belief - Physical Abuse

- A suspicious bruise/wound without an explanation
- Pattern bruise/wound (hand slap or hit with an object)
- Defensive wounds



29

## Reasonable Suspicion - Sexual Abuse

- A 5 year old demonstrates knowledge of oral sex or is acting out sexually with another child beyond what is developmentally typical
- A child returns from camp with sharp behavior change - is withdrawn, and has started wetting the bed.
- A teen is spending time tutoring with a teacher and you discover emotionally intimate chats.



30

## Reasonable Suspicion - Neglect

- Consistently dirty or has severe body odor
- Begs, steals, or hoards food or complains frequently of hunger
- Untreated illness, injuries, health (e.g., unfilled cavities) or serious educational needs
- Is often left inappropriately unsupervised



31

## Notice behavioral signs that might apply to multiple forms of abuse:

- Sudden changes in behavior
- Sudden drop in grades
- Fear toward a person or type of person or situation
- Nightmares or trouble sleeping
- Anxiety and depression
- Eating disorders or self-harm
- Unexplained stomach pain



32

You are not alone. Seek help if you have questions or need support.



33



## Responding to Adult Abuse



GRACE  
Godly Response to Abuse  
in the Christian Environment

34

### Responding to Adult Abuse:

- If violence is happening or just happened or there is immediate safety concern call local authorities
- If it is not immediately, often we should respect the agency of **adult victims** in reporting crimes to authorities (exceptions - children in the home; church leader/staff)
- Support victims at every step while respecting their boundaries and privacy
- Learn about local resources now (IPV victims need safety plans with experts)



35

### National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-799-7233

### National Sexual Assault Hotline:

1-800-656-4673

### Stalking Resources:

[www.safehorizon.org/get-help/stalking/](http://www.safehorizon.org/get-help/stalking/)



36



37



38