

Sexual Abuse

A "HOW TO HELP" GUIDE FOR VICTIMS,
PARENTS OF VICTIMS AND
CONGREGATIONS



ADVENTIST
SAFE PLACE SERVICES

2012 Edition

SEXUAL ABUSE

A “HOW TO HELP” GUIDE FOR VICTIMS, PARENTS OF VICTIMS AND CONGREGATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse means the sexual assault, sexual exploitation or sexual harassment of any person, either adult or child. Sexual assault includes any intentional or reckless act, threat or use of force involving sexual activity against a person’s consent. By law, children cannot consent to sexual activity. Sexual exploitation refers to any form of sexual contact, or invitation for sexual contact, where there is an imbalance of power. It does not matter whether or not there is consent or who initiated the sexual contact. Sexual harassment means any unwelcome sexual contact, where a person reasonably feels offended, belittled or threatened.

Sexual abuse may consist of a single incident or several incidents over a period of time. Sexually abusive behaviours include exhibitionism, oral sex, and penetration of the vagina or anus with sexual organs or objects. Such behaviour can include touching of the breasts, genitals and buttocks (either dressed or undressed); inciting a child to nudity or to expose any of their private parts; allowing children to view pornographic material; or using children in the production of pornography.

What is child sexual abuse?

- It is a crime in all states of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.
- Child sexual abuse doesn’t just mean sexual intercourse. It can also involve a range of sexual activities, including touching a child on their breasts or penis, masturbating in front of a child, flashing or oral sex.
- Child sexual abuse occurs when an adult, or an adolescent bigger than the child, uses his or her authority or power over the child to involve them in sexual activity.

Is child sexual abuse common in Christian communities?

- In Australia, it is believed that one in 3–4 girls and one in 7–8 boys will have been sexually abused by the age of 18.
- These children can be of any age, from babies to older teenagers.
- In the SDA Church throughout Australia and New Zealand, 5.1% of males and 28.8% of females reported that they had been sexually abused (Craig and Strahan, *Marriage, Family and Religion*, 1995, pp 89–102). These figures are similar to those found in the general community. For example, a review of 16 child abuse prevalence studies conducted in Australia from 2000–2010 found that 4–8% of males reported penetrative abuse; 11–16% of males reported non penetrative abuse; 7–12% of females reported penetrative abuse and 23–34% of females reported non-penetrative abuse (Bromfield, Price-Robertson and Vassallo, Australian Institute of Family Studies, *Child Protection Clearing House*, 2010).
- Churches and other children’s organisations can be targeted by potential abusers.

A large proportion of child sexual-abuse offenders indicate high degrees of religiosity but come from a background where sexual morality was publicly supported but privately breached (Vredevelt, *Surviving the Secret*, 1987). Child sexual abuse is recognised as a problem across all faith communities, including the SDA Church.

Are the abusers always people of the opposite gender?

- Over 90% of reported abusers are male.
- At least 85% are familiar to the child.
- There is no distinctive psychological profile of an abuser.
- They come from a wide range of socioeconomic, cultural, racial and religious backgrounds.
- Many start abusing in adolescence.
- Convicted abusers are most commonly heterosexual men.
- They may target children of the same, opposite, or both genders.

What types of behaviour can abusers exhibit?

- Much cuddling, touching and hand-holding of children.
- Sensuous kissing of children.
- Overly-protective and restrictive behaviour concerning children or severely disciplinarian.
- Spends time alone with children.
- Refuses to discuss sex, incest or rape.
- Often nude or scantily-clothed around children.
- Leaves doors open when dressing or showering.
- Few/no close, age-appropriate friends.
- Works long hours or does not work at all.

How do abusers select and groom their victims?

- They identify and target potential children.
- They recruit children by becoming friends with the child's parent(s) or becoming involved in activities the child is involved in. They gain the trust of the child and make the child feel special.
- They organise to see the child alone and encourage the child to keep secrets.
- They begin sexually desensitising the child, either by touching them or showing them pornography.
- After they have sexually abused the child, they tell the child that the behaviour is OK. They tell the child there will be negative consequences if the child discloses, and that the child consented and is free to choose to be in this relationship, even though this is not the case.

Why don't children tell about abuse?

- They don't know they can tell.
- They are afraid.
- They don't have the words to say what is happening.
- They are taught to obey adults.
- They believe it is their fault.
- They do tell and no-one listens.

Doesn't the victim of the sexual abuse bear some responsibility for provoking the situation or not putting a stop to it?

The victim of sexual abuse is not responsible for the sexual abuse and is not to blame. Children are taught to obey adults and cannot discern an adult or older person's motives. A child may take years to understand that what has been done to them is abuse, so they are powerless—at the time of the abuse—to do anything to stop it. The onus is on adults to provide a safe place for children, not for a child to put a stop to abuse by themselves.

Myth: Children are flirtatious. Young girls are seductive and are therefore responsible for adults having sex with them.

Fact: Adults who abuse children make these statements to justify their actions, and to shift blame and responsibility onto others. It is the job of adults, if they encounter an adolescent at risk due to their sexual development or curiosity, to protect that child or young person from sexual expression—NOT to exploit it. An adult or more powerful person is responsible for their behaviour at all times.

Myth: All the child had to do was run away.

Fact: If a child, dependent on home for survival, is being abused at home, or by persons familiar to the family, where do they run to?

Myth: All the child had to do was tell someone.

Fact: The child may be too afraid to tell. The offender may have threatened them or the child may think that no-one will believe them. The child may be afraid they will be blamed for what is happening, or may be trying to protect the offender, who may be a person the child loves.

Myth: Children often go back for more. How bad can it be?

Fact: Children may want to be around the offender to get some of their other needs met. They just put up with sexual abuse.

Myth: Some kids just ask for trouble. That is why some of them have it happen over and over again.

Fact: Offenders often pick whoever is around. If a child has previously had their boundaries violated, they do not know how to protect themselves or how to say “no.”

Myth: If children do not want it, they can say “STOP!”

Fact: Children generally do not question the behaviour of adults. They are often coerced by bribes, threats and the use of a position of authority. Studies indicate that child sexual abuse often continues for two years before it is reported to anyone.

What sort of children are vulnerable to sexual abuse?

All children because:

- Children are powerless.
- Uninformed children trust all adults.
- Young children are incapable of assessing adult motives.
- Children are taught to obey adults.
- Children are naturally curious about their own bodies.
- Children are deprived of information about their own sexuality.

What symptoms of sexual abuse may be observed in the child victim?

Physical Symptoms

- Pregnancy
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Bruises, bleeding
- Unusual odours
- Itching in genital area
- Trauma to thighs, lower abdomen
- Abdominal pain or migraine
- Psychosomatic illness
- Child has difficulty walking or sitting
- Child in contact with a known child sexual assault offender

Behavioural Symptoms

- Fear of being hurt during nappy changing or dressing
- Self-destructive behaviours
- Prostitution
- Sleep disturbances
- Truancy/running away
- Persistent and inappropriate sex play
- Eating/elimination disturbances
- Regressive behaviour
- Pseudomature behaviour
- Detailed, overly-sophisticated knowledge of sexual behaviours
- Sexual themes in play, art or writing
- Irritability, short tempered
- Change in way of relating to others
- Unexplained money/gifts

Indicators should only be seen as a guide, rather than conclusive proof.

What symptoms and behaviours may be present in adults who have been sexually abused, either as children or adults?

- Depression
- Anger
- Fear and anxiety
- Guilt and shame
- Loneliness and isolation
- Sexual problems
- Dysfunctional parenting
- Strained relationships with family of origin
- Substance abuse
- Borderline personality disorder
- Eating disorders
- Dissociation
- Skin carving
- Suicide attempts
- Low self-esteem
- Revictimisation experiences
- Feeling crazy or different
- Post-traumatic stress disorder

It is common for various types of child abuse to co-exist together, and victims of emotional, psychological, and physical abuse can experience long-term consequences in adulthood.

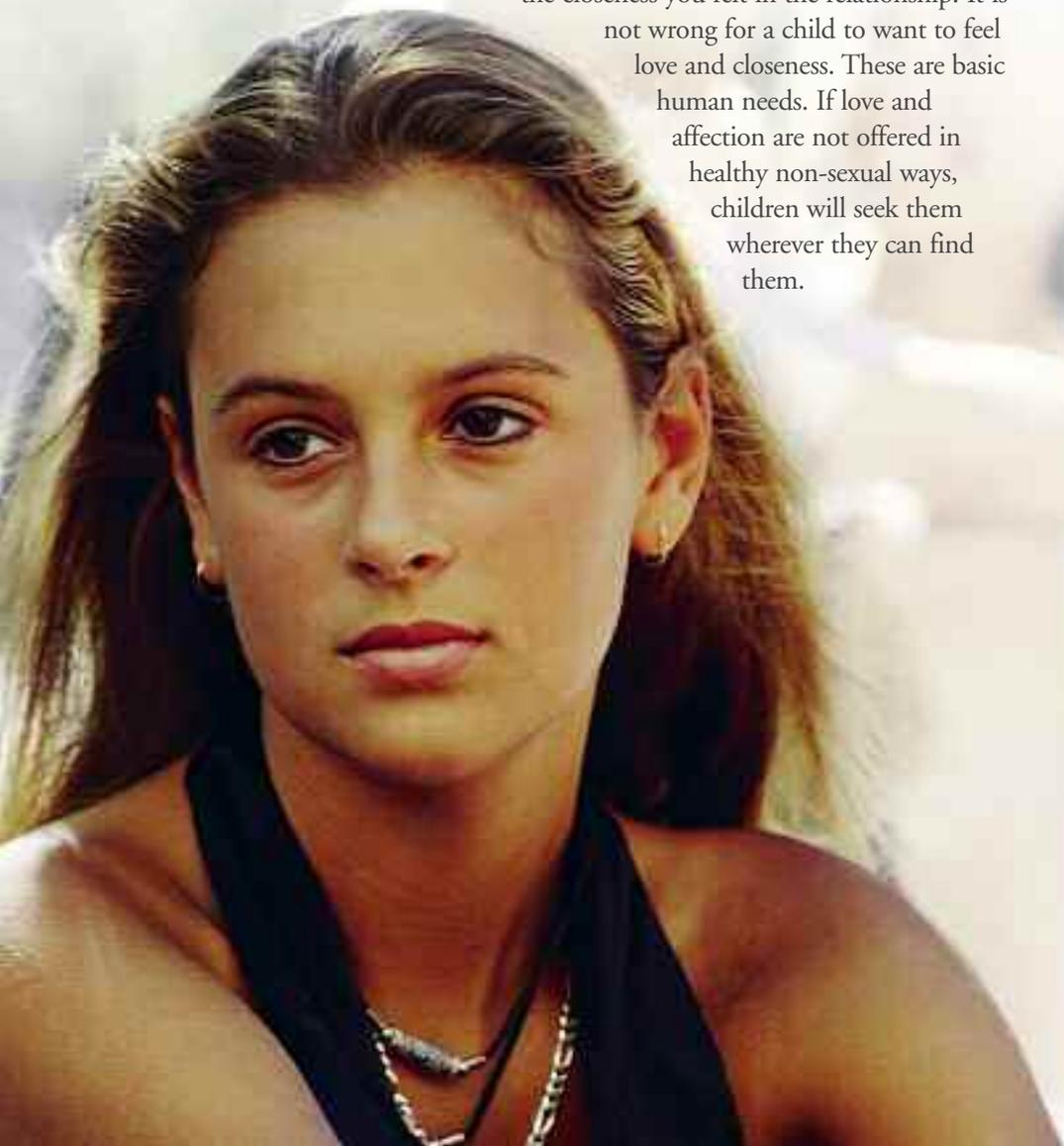


INFORMATION FOR THE VICTIM

As a child, I sometimes enjoyed the sexual attention even though I was also uneasy about it.

You do not have to feel guilty if you, in some way, enjoyed the sexual attention of the abuser. There are several legitimate reasons why you may have liked it:

- Human beings need love and affection. You may have enjoyed or sought out the closeness you felt in the relationship. It is not wrong for a child to want to feel love and closeness. These are basic human needs. If love and affection are not offered in healthy non-sexual ways, children will seek them wherever they can find them.



- The offender may have been someone you liked or adored. You may have enjoyed feeling like his/her special person. A child has the right to enjoy such a relationship without having an adult confuse it with sexual behaviour.
- Perhaps you enjoyed the physical sensations of sexual stimulation or experienced an orgasm in the context of the abusive relationship. It is normal to enjoy the physical sensations of sexual stimulation and orgasm. One of the damaging aspects of child sexual abuse is that sexual pleasure is associated with shame, fear, and emotional or physical pain. Sexuality is best explored in a respectful, consenting manner. This is why an older youth or adult has a responsibility to protect a child's sexual curiosity, not exploit it.

I feel so bad because this happened to me. How does God look at me since this has happened?

Sexual abuse may hurt victims in many ways. One way is to make you feel like it was your fault and you are a bad and worthless person. Don't allow the abuse to hurt you more than it already has. You are not a bad person because someone else abused you. You are in no way to blame for what happened.

God hates the oppression of the weak and suffers with them in their pain. God loves you, and sees you in the innocence and purity with which you were created.

I was sexually abused by a person of the same gender. Does this mean I am homosexual?

No. As a victim, you had no choice. You were not acting on your own initiative but were coerced by another individual. The act says nothing about your own sexual tendencies.

I am worried about sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

If you were recently abused and have cause to believe you may be at risk of a STI, you should see a doctor. The consequences of some STIs can be serious but many STIs can be effectively treated if diagnosed early.

I feel I need to talk to someone. Where can I go for help?

The first person you need to talk to is someone you trust who will believe you. If you are currently being sexually abused, you also need to talk to someone who can stop the abuse, such as the police or a child protection helpline.

If the abuse is no longer occurring, you may want to talk to a counsellor or join a support group. Sexual abuse affects its victims in many ways, often for a long time. Telling your story and feelings in a context of safety, acceptance and insight will help you heal, and find fulfilment and joy in your life.

Do I need to talk about the details in order to heal?

Abuse removes from the victim the freedom to choose. Making a choice to seek help may be an important first step to empowerment. If you were abused as a child and are now an adult, it may be helpful to revisit the abuse through your adult eyes. However, regardless of your age when the abuse took place, there is no need to talk about intimate details of the abuse unless you are comfortable in doing that. Some therapists can provide a type of therapy that is “content free,” where the details of the abuse do not need to be discussed. People heal and move on in different ways.

Must I confront the person who abused me?

An abuser may be confronted directly in person or by other means, such as a letter that may or may not be sent to the abuser.

It is best to allow a counsellor to guide you in this matter. It is best to confront the offender from a position of strength and healing, not from weakness, guilt or anger. Many people have been re-victimised when they have confronted the offender without adequate preparation, strength and external support. Remember, you cannot control how the abuser will respond.

How can I forgive the person who abused me?

Sexual abuse is a deep, fundamental violation of a person. Emotional healing is a process, not an instant experience. Forgiveness may help you deal with the negative thoughts, feelings and behaviours that are directed toward the abuser. Forgiveness is not something a person turns on and off. It is something that grows from inside a person, like love and compassion. You may feel outrage rather than forgiveness toward the offender. Such anger is normal and justified. Express your feelings regardless of what they are. The more you heal, the more

you may move forward. Forgiving the offender may help you to move forward. It does not excuse the offender or mean they shouldn't be held accountable or face justice.

What if people treat me as an outcast?

People sometimes try to deny the seriousness of abuse by blaming the victim, although the victim is innocent. The more educated people become about the dynamics of sexual abuse, the more they will understand the victim is not responsible. It can be disappointing to see people neglect the needs of the victim and rally in support of the person who abused. People who abuse can be well-liked, and respected church and community leaders, so many may find it hard to accept that the person they liked has flaws.

Find healthy support groups, friends and confidants, who build your self-esteem and encourage you to be psychologically and sexually healthy. Focus on the positive supports and influences in your life.

Remember: The problem is not yours—it is the problem of people who do not accept you.

Why do I feel so depressed and worthless?

The offender took advantage of your trust and violated the very core of who you are as a person. When you survived the abuse, you may have buried the painful emotions associated with the abuse. Those repressed feelings continue to make you feel worthless and depressed. Blaming yourself increased the feelings of worthlessness and depression. By processing those buried feelings it can enable you to be happy and whole.

I'm afraid this experience will ruin my life and make it impossible for me to have a healthy sexual relationship.

Sexual abuse can affect future relationships, distort sexual feelings and initiate unhealthy means of sexual expression in the victim. However, you can recover and heal, often with the help of trained professionals. Sexual abuse is a devastating crime against a person, but you are not alone—you can heal. Intimacy problems in future relationships is a fear many people hold but some research suggests that victims of child sexual abuse can still go on to form satisfying intimacy in adulthood.

I wish I could talk to my minister but I feel so ashamed. I'm afraid he will think I'm a horrible person if I tell him.

Feeling shame is not uncommon, but a minister should not judge you for what has happened to you. Telling someone can cause fear, so you need to take this first step at your pace. You need to find people that are right for you to talk to. A minister can support you spiritually and help you with questions like, “Does God still love me?” and “Where was God when this happened?” However, most ministers are not trained counsellors. They are not equipped and supervised to provide complete counselling to sexual abuse victims. A minister can help you find a trained, professional counsellor to complement the pastoral support from the minister.



How can I protect my child against sexual assault?

From an early age, begin to talk and teach your children:

- How to name the different feelings they experience.
- When they feel frightened, what their early warning signs are.
- Where their private parts and “no go” zones are on their bodies.
- The difference between good and bad touch.
- The difference between good secrets and bad secrets.
- How to say “NO,” then GO and TELL someone if they are frightened or unsafe.
- There is nothing so awful they can’t tell someone about it.
- That adults sometimes do wrong and bad things.
- Who their safety network is—adults they can contact easily and tell if something bad happens.

My child claims to have been sexually abused. How can I know if this is true?

Children rarely lie about sexual abuse. It is vital that you believe your child and make it clear to your child that you do. At the same time, an allegation of sexual abuse is a serious charge against the accused offender. As you listen to your child’s story, you may assess its credibility using the following criteria:

- Consistency. Have the main elements of the child’s story remained consistent (details may change)?
- Body Language. Do the child’s tone of voice, emotional expressions, gestures and demeanour match what they are saying?
- Details. Does the child demonstrate detailed knowledge of sexual acts above their age level?
- Vocabulary. Does the child use age-appropriate vocabulary when describing the event(s)?

Most children don’t make a direct, complete disclosure. Rather, children:

- Reveal information in bits and pieces
- Accidentally disclose

- Show changes in behaviour
- May be withdrawn
- May include sexual themes in play or drawings

Remember: sexual assault is a crime. IF you have a concern, or a child discloses abuse, it should be reported to the police like any other crime. Police in each state have trained teams to respond.

I suspect my child may have been sexually abused. He/she is too young to understand what it would mean or to talk about it. How can I know?

Sexual abuse may be difficult to detect with young children. You may use one or more of the following approaches to evaluate the situation:

- Observe if your child exhibits some of the behavioural indicators of abuse.
- If the child shows physical signs of abuse, have him/her examined by a doctor.
- Read the child an age-appropriate book about protective behaviours and good touch, bad touch.



If one of our members claims to be sexually abused, how seriously should we take it?

Very seriously. A person may have carried this painful secret for years. If he or she trusts you enough to disclose this information, you must not betray that trust by being flippant, sceptical or insensitive.

Police statistics say that false reporting of sexual abuse is rare, representing 2–7% of all reported incidents (CASA House, *Guide to Supporting Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse*, p 29).

What are the needs of someone who has been sexually abused?

- To be encouraged to help themselves
- To be believed
- To be treated with dignity, respect, sensitivity and understanding
- To be given information
- To retain complete control
- To have privacy and confidentiality
- An apology
- To know the procedures of the church
- To see the church taking the complaint seriously
- The introduction of accountability measures for the church's programs
- To confront the offender
- Healing emotionally and spiritually
- Financial reimbursement/ counselling
- An acknowledgement of sin and repentance
- To protect the feelings of others
- Seek justice through the criminal justice system or church processes

Should I take the initiative to talk to a person I suspect has been sexually abused about the abuse, even though they have not come to me?

It is not wise to directly confront the person. Provide a caring and supportive environment for the individual and that will enable them to see you as someone they can trust.

As a church member, what is my role in the support and recovery of a sexually-abused person?

Church members may provide significant help, healing, comfort and support to the sexual abuse victim and their family. However, the victim may also request counselling by a professional trained in working with victims of sexual abuse. The following is a checklist to assist church members in knowing what to say to victims seeking help from the church:

- Responding with righteous anger that the victim should be the subject of such a crime.
- Responding with compassion for the victim, empathising with injuries experienced, getting involved and running the risk of helping.
- Responding with advocacy for the victim, speaking out about the rights of the victim and seeking justice against the offender.
- Responding by holding the offender legally and spiritually accountable for his/her actions.
- A response of prevention.

(CASA House, *A Pastoral Report to the Churches*, p 32.)

Church members may play an effective role in facilitating the healing process if they:

- Will support and try to build the victim's self-esteem.
- Will not participate in maintaining the secret and thus protecting the offender.
- Will work to ease the victim's feelings of guilt and shame.
- Will be understanding and patient with the victim's difficulties in relating to God.
- Will try to find images and metaphors of God that the victim can relate to.
- Will emphasise God's love and complete acceptance.
- Will ensure the church does not re-victimise the victim.

- Will not attempt to counsel beyond their level of expertise.
- Will not press the victim for intimate details.
- Will treat the individual with respect.
- Will maintain confidentiality.
- Will not raise unrealistic expectations for a “quick cure.”
- Do not blame the victim.
- Do not discredit the victim’s story.

What are the specific needs of a family that has been torn apart by incest?

In addition to needing expressions of concern, love, support and acceptance coming from the congregation, the family may have specific needs in the following areas:

- Volunteer service to take up the roles previously done by the offender, such as yard work and maintenance, running errands and babysitting.
- Material assistance—provide food, services and other material assistance.
- Counselling—the entire family will probably be affected by the abuse. Encourage and help the family to find professional counselling.
- Respect for privacy and confidentiality.
- Help and support through the legal process.
- Understanding and acceptance.

Shouldn't the perpetrator of sexual abuse be confronted according to the scriptural injunction in Matthew 18:1–6 and 15–17 "... if you have ought against your brother?"

Sexual abuse is a crime and therefore needs to be handled initially by the criminal justice system before a church member confronts the perpetrator. "The general teaching of the Bible (see Romans 13:1–7 and Matthew 22:15–21) is that the state has been given a divine authority within a certain parameter. It is the task of human authorities to take care of crimes in general. The authority of the church is to deal with issues of a religious nature. It is therefore contrary to general biblical principle to expand the judicial authority of the church to any case of a general crime, for example, child sexual assault." (South Pacific Division Biblical Research Committee, 2004).

What is the congregation's responsibility to the offender if they are a member of the congregation?

Until an allegation is substantiated, congregations should try to remain neutral and support everyone as best they can. If an attendee has a conviction or an allegation is made and substained, the congregation must manage the risk.

It is common for people who abuse to:

- Deny, distort, diminish or rationalise their actions.
- Be secretive or manipulative.
- Avoid responsibility for their abuse.
- Seek superficial, premature forgiveness without full acknowledgement of wrongdoing and repentance.

Offenders:

- May offend again without appropriate intervention and supervision.
- Need to process their remorse over time.
- Have limited self control and require external controls.
- Are in need of support groups that require strict accountability.
- Continue to question and test boundaries.

It is the church's policy in Australia and New Zealand that an applicant with a conviction for a child-related sexual, pornographic or violent offence enter into a Safety Agreement with the local conference as a prerequisite for

attending church. Safe Place Services and the local conference Safe Place Committee help organise this.

Should I encourage the victim to forgive the offender?

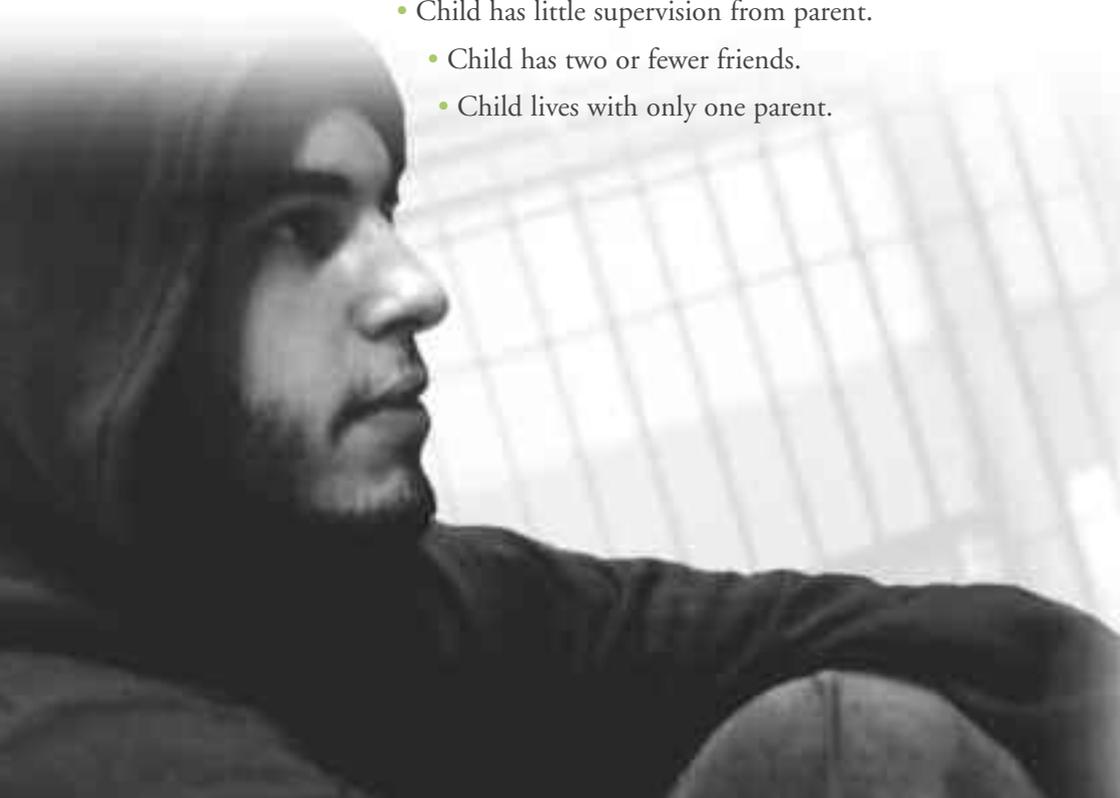
Sexual abuse is a deep, fundamental violation of a person and emotional healing is a process, not an instant experience. Forgiveness is not something that a person turns on and off but something that grows from inside a person, like love and compassion. The victim may feel outrage rather than forgiveness toward the offender. Such anger is normal and justified. Encourage the victim to express their feelings regardless of what they are. Encourage the victim to be honest with God. The more the abuse victim heals, the more they may be able to forgive the offender.

What unique spiritual problems do sexually-abused individuals face?

- Belief and trust crumble.
- Hopes and dreams get lost in the confusion.
- Alienation.
- Hopelessness.
- Striving for perfectionism.
- Confusion about God's will.
- Guilt.
- Inadequate answers as to why the abuse took place.
- Issues of justice.
- Betrayal.
- Anger at God, self and church.
- God as "the Father"—may be negative symbol.
- Good and evil questioned.
- Belief that prayer doesn't work.

How can we notice church attendees who might be at risk of experiencing abuse?

- Role reversal between mother and daughter.
- Parent very overprotective or jealous of child.
- Inappropriate sleeping arrangements.
- Mother often ill or disabled.
- Extreme favouritism shown to one child.
- Parent reacts very negatively to any sex education offered to a child.
- Family has no social supports or friends.
- Family geographically or socially isolated.
- Alcohol or drugs abused in the family.
- Child does not know it is OK to say “no” to adults.
- Child has a fear of being punished.
- Child’s needs for love and belonging not being met.
- Child developmentally delayed or disabled.
 - Child has little supervision from parent.
 - Child has two or fewer friends.
 - Child lives with only one parent.



How can we help prevent child sexual abuse?

- Be aware of the problem—talk about it and organise training in the issue for your church.
- Adopt the Child-Safe policy template for your church, which is endorsed by the church’s conferences and unions throughout Australia and New Zealand.
- Promote a code of conduct for all adults who interact with children.
- Screen all children’s volunteers and comply with the criminal history record checks required throughout Australia and New Zealand.
- Know the indicators of sexual abuse in children.
- Respond to disclosure in a sensitive way.
- Know how to get support and help for children who have been abused.

If a child tells me they have been sexually abused, what should I do?

- Listen to the child’s story and try to remain calm.
- Let the child know :
 - they are believed.
 - it was not their fault.
 - that you know of other children this has happened to.
 - adults sometimes do wrong things.
 - they were right to tell and you are glad they told.
- Explain to the child what you are going to do.
- Don’t make promises you can’t keep.
- Do not leave the child alone.
- Notify statutory authorities. You may consult with the local church child-safe leader or Safe Places Services before doing this.

If I believe a child has been sexually abused, what should I do?

Child sexual abuse does not stop if it is ignored. Nor does it usually stop if an individual confronts the suspect. Allegations of child sexual abuse need to be reported to Government child protection services in your region (see Directory) and to the Police. The church operates a telephone service for people who have been sexually abused within the church and its programs. The qualified and experienced staff can listen to calls; provide information on support services; discuss reporting situations to Police and Child Protection services; and receive formal complaints about sexual abuse within the Church. This is not a crisis service and it is not always answered immediately. Callers can leave their name and a contact number, and calls are generally returned within 24 hours. Information is also available on the Safe Place Services website. Visit www.safeplaceservices.org.au



DIRECTORY

Contact Safe Places Services:

Support line

Australia 1800 220 468

Norfolk Island 1800 1410

New Zealand 0800 442 458

PO Box 650

Wahroonga, NSW 2076, Australia

safeplaces@adventist.org.au

Contacts: Government Child Protection Services

Australian Capital Territory

Office for Children, Youth and Family Support

1300 556 729

www.dhcs.act.gov.au

New South Wales

Human Services Community Services

24 hour Helpline: 132 111

www.community.nsw.gov.au

Northern Territory

Department of Health and Families

24 hours: 1800 700 250

www.health.nt.gov.au

Queensland

Department of Child Safety

Crisis care: (07) 3235 9999

After hours: 1800 177 135

Business hours: 1800 811 810

www.childsafety.qld.gov.au

South Australia

Families SA

Child Abuse Report Line 131 478

www.dfc.sa.gov.au

Tasmania

Department of Health and Human Services

Child Protection Intake:

1300 737 639

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au

Western Australia

Department of Child Protection

Head Office: (08) 9222 2555

Perth After hours: (08) 9325 1111

Regional After hours:

1800 199 008

www.community.wa.gov.au

Victoria

Department of Human Services

Child Protection Emergency

Service: 131 278

www.dhs.vic.gov.au

New Zealand

Child, Youth and Family

Freecall Number: 0508 326 459

www.cyf.govt.nz

Cook Islands

**Division of Social Welfare Ministry
of Internal Affairs**
(682) 29 450

Fiji

Department of Social Welfare
(679) 331 5754

Kiribati

**Social Welfare Division of the
Ministry of Internal and Social
Affairs**
(686) 28 100

Papua New Guinea

**Department of Social Welfare and
Development**
(675) 323 2178
(675) 325 0273

Samoa

**Department of Health, Ministry of
Health**
(685) 21 212

Solomon Islands

**Social Welfare Division of the
Ministry of Health and Medical
Services**
(677) 22 376

Tonga

**Public Health and Primary Health
Care Division, Ministry of Health**
(676) 23 200

Tuvalu

Ministry of Health
(688) 20 403

Vanuatu

**Social Welfare Division of the
Ministry of Justice and Social
Welfare**
(678) 22 252

