



Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault

24 Hour Crisis Line:
MO (816) 531- 0233
KS (913) 642-0233
www.mocsa.org

Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse occurs more often than we would like to think; **one in four girls** and **one in six boys** will be sexually abused before turning eighteen years old. The presence of the following signs does not prove that sexual abuse has occurred, but instead necessitates further investigation.

If you suspect child sexual abuse or a child discloses to you, *report the abuse immediately* to the state in which it happened.

For children in Missouri:
800.392.3738
TTY: 800.669.8689
Out-of-state:
573-751-3448

For children in Kansas:
800.922.5330
Out-of-state:
913.296.0044

The National Child Abuse Hotline:
800.422.4453

To report the abuse of a person over 18:
Missouri: 800.392.0210
Kansas: 800.922.5330

Behavioral Signs Typical in Younger Children

- Abrupt changes in behavior
- Low self-esteem
- Wearing many layers of clothing regardless of the weather
- Unusual interest in, or knowledge of, sexual matters
- Sleep disturbances
- Sexually acting out
- Sexual drawings
- Poor peer relationships
- Makes sexual comments
- Self-destructive behavior
- Regression in behavior (bed-wetting, thumb-sucking)
- Refusal to undress in front of others
- Fear of either men or women
- Reluctance to be alone with a particular person
- Report of sexual involvement with an adult or child
- Thinks of body or self as bad

Behavioral Signs Typical in Older Children and Adolescents

- Eating disturbances (anorexia, bulimia)
- Substance abuse
- Running away
- Social withdrawal
- Depression
- Fear of intimate relationships
- Self-destructive behavior
 - Suicide attempts
 - Self-mutilation

Physical Signs

- Pregnancy
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Frequent urinary infections
- Pain during elimination
- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Pain, swelling, or itching in genital area

For more information on child sexual abuse or responding to disclosures, please visit www.mocsa.org.

Follow us at **MOCSAkc**

