

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Gibson Southern High School

2019-2020

WHAT WILL WE COVER?

- ◉ Why you are required to have this training
- ◉ Recent numbers on Indiana reports
- ◉ Signs of abuse and neglect
- ◉ How to make a report
- ◉ What happens after you make a report
- ◉ Available resources for students and families

WHY DO WE HAVE TO LEARN THIS?

- ◉ Senate Bill 355 requires students to be educated in the area of child abuse and sexual abuse.
- ◉ Indiana Code 31-33-5 states that if any person has a reason to believe a child is the victim of abuse and/or neglect they have a duty to report. All teachers and school staff are mandated reporters.

THINGS TO CONSIDER...

- ⦿ Failure for an educator to make a child abuse or neglect report is a Class B Misdemeanor.
- ⦿ The state can take action against a teaching license if the teacher did not make a report when they suspected a child of being abused or neglected.
- ⦿ No school corporation can establish policy around reporting that would delay or restrict the reporting of abuse and/or neglect by employees.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER...

- ◉ Students can be part of the solution too.
- ◉ Children and teens often confide in their friends if they are experiencing any type of abuse.
- ◉ Listen carefully
- ◉ Don't judge
- ◉ You can make a report yourself or get help from a trusted adult to make a hotline report.

WHO RECEIVES A REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

- Once a student or an adult has information and suspects someone is being abused or neglected, it is necessary to make a report to the Indiana Department of Child Services Hotline.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES (DCS) HOTLINE FACTS

- ◉ The DCS hotline is a centralized call center with trained responders located in Indianapolis, IN.
- ◉ Determination of investigation is made at the central call center and then forwarded to our local office in Gibson County.

HOTLINE FACTS

- A total # of 225,152 reports were handled in 2016 in the state of Indiana
- Average numbers of calls per day - 640
- Average speed of answer - 26 seconds
- Average length of time callers spent making the report - 12 minutes, 28 seconds

DEFINING CHILD ABUSE

- ⦿ Abuse: abuse is the physical, sexual, or emotional harm or risk of harm to a child under the age of 18 caused by a parent or other person who acts as a caregiver for the child.

DEFINING NEGLECT

- ◉ Neglect: when a parent or caregiver does not give the care, supervision, affection and support needed for a child's health, safety and well-being.
- ◉ Child neglect includes:
 - Physical neglect and inadequate supervision
 - Emotional neglect
 - Medical neglect
 - Educational neglect

INDICATORS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT

- Physical and Behavioral indicators:
 - Frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, cuts, or welts
 - Frequent physical complaints, such as stomachaches and headaches
 - Tearfulness, depression or anxiety
 - Behavioral extremes such as aggressiveness or withdrawal
 - Frightened of parents or afraid to go home
 - An STD or pregnancy especially under age 14

HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

- ◉ Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline
1-800-800-5556
- ◉ If you suspect a child/teen is being abused or neglected, call Indiana's Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- ◉ You can report abuse and neglect anonymously.

INFORMATION TO HAVE READY

- Child Information: name, age, address, current location, person caring for child, and need/receiving medical treatment
- Parent/Guardian Information: name, address, phone number as well as any domestic violence, substance abuse, criminal history, mental health issues, or past CPS history

INFORMATION TO HAVE READY

- Alleged Perpetrator Information: name, address, phone number, relation to the child, behavioral issues, and other children who may be at risk
- Physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect allegations: what happened, when, where, timeframe, and specific conditions

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- ◉ DCS call taker will most likely tell you whether an investigation will or will not be made before you get off the call.
- ◉ A case worker from the local Gibson County Department of Child Services will visit with the child/teen who the report was made about. Follow up is (normally) at school or sometimes at your home.
- ◉ A plan of action will be determined for each case.

GETTING EXTRA SUPPORT

- ◉ If you are concerned for yourself or a friend, talk to a trusted adult.
- ◉ School- Your Youth First Social Worker, guidance counselors, nurse, administration and teachers care about you. We are ready to listen and support you. Don't hesitate to reach out for help.
- ◉ Home- Parents, older siblings, grandparents, aunts or uncles can help.
- ◉ Community members- Pastor or priest, family doctor or a counselor can help.

OTHER RESOURCES

- ◉ See the GSHS guidance department for counseling resources in the community.

- ◉ Holly's House, Evansville, IN
A child and adult victim advocacy center

- ◉ Albion Fellows Bacon Center, Evansville, IN
A center working toward preventing domestic and sexual violence in our community and offering services to empower individuals.

OTHER RESOURCES

- ◉ National Suicide Prevention Hotline
1-800-273-Talk

- ◉ The Trevor Project TrevorLifeline
1-866-488-7386

A kind gesture can reach a wound
that only compassion can heal.

Steve Maraboli