

Protecting Children from Abuse

Your Responsibilities under UAB's Protection of Children Policy

Objectives

At the conclusion of this training presentation, you will be better able to:

- Explain why protecting children is important
- Discuss UAB's policy relating to the protection of children
- Describe general guidelines for the responsible care of children involved in UAB-sponsored activities on or off-campus

Why is Protection of Children Important?

- Everyone's safety and well-being matters.
- Children deserve a secure environment.
- Protecting children protects us all.
- It supports the UAB Code of Conduct elements of quality, respect, compliance, and safety.
- It's UAB policy.
- It's the right thing to do.

Who Must Protect Children?

- You!
- Anyone providing services on behalf of UAB or involved with a program hosted on UAB's campus ("UAB Representative")
 - Faculty
 - Staff
 - Students
 - Volunteers
 - Employees and volunteers of third-party contractors on campus or providing services on behalf of UAB
- Office of Business Services provides support and organization for child protection initiatives

Who is Considered a “Child”?

For purposes of UAB’s policy on the protection of children, a “child” is anyone **under the age of eighteen (18)**

What is Required?

- **UAB representatives must report child abuse or neglect** that occurs:
 - on campus,
 - on property owned or leased by UAB, or
 - while participating in a University-sponsored activity off campus
- But, you may be a mandated reporter according to Alabama law no matter the location if you are a:
 - Person called upon to render aid or medical assistance to a child
 - Teacher
 - Hospital, clinic, or medical professional
 - School official
 - Law enforcement official
 - Social worker
 - Daycare worker
 - Mental health professional
 - Member of the clergy

What Must Be Reported?

ABUSE

- Non-accidental physical harm or injury to a child
- Sexual abuse
- Sexual exploitation

NEGLECT

- Negligent treatment or maltreatment
- Failure to provide adequate food, medical treatment, supervision, clothing, or shelter

What is Sexual Abuse?

- Can be perpetrated by anyone (an adult or another child)
- Coercion of a child to engage in or simulate sexually explicit conduct
- Touching
- Exposure to pornography
- Any type of activity intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desires of an abuser, including internet-focused sexual exploitation
- May or may not involve touching

What Kind of Touching?

Sexual abuse includes *any* touching by an adult of a child's body when the abuser's purpose or motive for the touching is to arouse or gratify the abuser's sexual desire

What is Meant by Pornography?

- Sexual abuse includes intentionally exposing a child to pornography or using a child in the production of pornography
- Taking indecent photos or videos of children is abuse

What Are Other Examples of Sexual Abuse?

- An adult commits abuse when he persuades two children to engage in sex with each other.
- Abuse occurs when an adult masturbates knowing a child is watching.
- Exhibitionism meant to arouse or gratify sexual desires (*e.g.*, exposing genitals, buttocks, or breasts) is abuse.

A Few Notes About Sexual Abuse . . .

- Usually, the perpetrator is someone the child knows¹
- Both boys and girls suffer from sexual abuse²
- False accusations are rare³
- Many cases go unreported⁴ – don't let your discomfort prevent you from doing the right thing

¹ U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2009). *Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics*.

² U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2009). *Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics*.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. (1999). *Child Maltreatment 1997: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Violence Prevention National Center for Injury Prevention & Control. (2009). *Congressional Testimony: Preventing Child Abuse and Improving Responses to Families in Crisis*.

How Can I Help Protect Children?

- Keep an eye out. Be aware.
- Behave responsibly.
- Report concerns of abuse even if you “just” suspect.

Guidelines for Responsible Interactions with Children

- Do not use physical punishment in any way for behavior management of children.
 - No spanking
 - No slapping
 - No pinching
 - No hitting
- Physical force may be used **only** to stop a behavior that may cause immediate harm to the individual or to another child or individual.

Guidelines for Responsible Interactions with Children

- Avoid being alone with a child where other adults cannot easily observe you, unless it is an emergency or unavoidable circumstance.
- Conduct one-to-one counseling with children in the open or in another place where private conversations are possible but occur in full view of others.
- When supervising or assisting private activities such as dressing or showering, remain observable by others or work in pairs.
- Limit electronic and other outside communications with children to those with clear educational purposes consistent with the mission of the program.

Appropriate Forms of Affection	Inappropriate Affection*
Brief hugs	Inappropriate or lengthy embraces
“High fives” and hand slapping	Kissing
Verbal praise	Touching bottoms, chests, or genital areas except during appropriate diapering or toileting of infants, toddlers, and those with special needs
Touching hands, faces, shoulders, and arms	Touching knees or legs
Arms around shoulders	Showing affection at times when you cannot be seen by others
Holding hands when walking with small children	Any form of unwanted affection
Kneeling or bending down for brief hugs with small children	Comments or compliments that relate to physique or body development
Holding hands during prayer	Touching underwear (over or under outer clothing)
Sitting beside small children	Private meals with children or youth
	Occupying a bed with a child
	Giving or receiving any type of massage

*There are times, however, when these acts might be acceptable, including situations involving the appropriate administration of medical care or treatment, as part of a properly approved research program, or where the act is a universally accepted part of the athletic or educational activity.

How Do I Report?



**Report to the
UAB Police**

(205) 934-3535

- Report immediately by calling UAB Police.
- You don't need proof to report, just a good faith belief that abuse occurred.
- When in doubt, report!
- Let others investigate.
 - Do **not** interview or question a child yourself.
 - Professionals are trained to determine what happened.
 - Trained experts can connect victims with support resources.

Will I Be Protected?

- Any person who makes a **good faith** report of child abuse or neglect will not be subjected to retaliation.
- Any person who makes a **good faith** report of child abuse or neglect is immune under Alabama law from any liability, civil or criminal.
- Your identity as a reporter is kept confidential to the extent possible under the law.

What Information is Needed to Report?

- Include any and all of the following information as available:
 - Name of child
 - Child's whereabouts
 - Description of known or suspected abuse or neglect
 - Suspected abuser's name and whereabouts
 - Names/addresses of parents/guardians
 - If known, description of previous injuries
- Following a verbal report, you may be asked to provide a statement in writing.

Where Can I Get More Information?

- The full policy can be found in the [UAB Policies & Procedures Library](#)
- UAB's Office of Business Services – contact Steve Murray at 996-4971
- More information can be found at:
 - [Alabama Department of Human Resources](#)
 - [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)