

# ERIN'S LAW



"Erin's Law" requires all TN public schools implement a prevention oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

- students in grades PreK-12th grade age appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult.
- school personnel about sexual abuse
- parents & guardians the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.

## WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE?

It can be physical or can include the following:

- Exposing or touching a child's private parts or making the child expose or touch someone else's private parts
- Making a child watch or listen to sexual acts or showing them pornography
- Inappropriately watching a child dress or use the bathroom
- Talking to a child in sexually explicit ways in person, by phone, by text, or on the internet

## MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE

- Children aren't really in danger
- Educating children puts ideas in their heads
- Educating children will scare them
- Personal body safety includes lessons on sex education
- My child is too young to learn about personal body safety
- Kids make this stuff up

## RESOURCES FOR TALKING TO YOUR KIDS



**9 OUT OF 10 VICTIMS NEVER DISCLOSE**

**93% OF THE TIME THE VICTIM KNOWS THE ABUSER**

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS TO LOOK FOR

- Nightmares
- Trouble sleeping
- Bed wetting
- Change in appetite
- Fear of certain people, places, activities
- Mood swings: Rage, Anger, Fear, anxiety, insecure or withdrawn
- Depression
- Aggression
- Feeling shameful or guilty
- Isolating oneself
- Withdrawal from someone
- Resisting removing clothes during appropriate times (bedtime, bathtime)
- Change in academics
- Running away from home
- Suicidal thoughts
- Acting out sexually
- Exhibits adult sexual behaviors, knowledge, and language.

## SIGNS MORE COMMON IN ADOLESCENTS

- Eating Disorders
- Self Injury
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Promiscuous activity
- Running away
- Suicidal
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Fear
- Academic problems

## WHAT DO I DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES?

- Listen to the child
- Let them know they did the right thing by telling
- Tell them this is not their fault
- Say you believe them
- Let child know they are safe
- Report abuse immediately to police

## MAKE AN IMMEDIATE ACTION PLAN

- Call the police no matter who it is
- Take the child to the hospital
- Call DCS 1-877-54-ABUSE or 1-877-237-0004