

Diocese of Dallas
Safe Environment Program for Schools and
Parishes

St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Community
Adult Continuing Education

Option 1 Abuse Prevention and Reporting

2005

Please note:

This is a training renewal option. If you have not already attended the Family of Faith Safe Environment Training session held at the parish center or another parish you must attend the session. You can then use this option to renew for next year. Please refer to our bulletin or our web site www.stgabriel.org for session dates and times.

Instructions

1. Read the document entitled "Abuse Prevention and Reporting".
2. Fill out the self assessment form.
3. Fill out and sign the signature form. (In order to receive credit, be sure to print your name **legibly**.)
4. Return the self assessment and signature forms to the church office (mail or drop off).

By doing so, you will have fulfilled your annual training requirement that is mandated by our parish's Safe Environment Program.

St. Gabriel's is a Stewardship parish. This program is made possible by the generous stewardship contributions of many parishioners. Our parish relies on these contributions, given in thankful response to God's generosity, to fund parish ministries and activities like this.

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Note to Volunteers and Employees

As you know, you previously completed the initial core training requirements of our Safe Environment Program when you attended an awareness session as part of being screened and cleared for service. This packet provides you with additional information related to child safety and protection issues, as well as expands upon and/or updates information that you learned about or received when you attended the Safe Environment Awareness session.

Our Mandate

As you learned when you attended the awareness session, our Diocese and parish have each accepted that as Christian adults, we all have a moral and legal responsibility and are entrusted by God with the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of children. As they participate in activities within or sponsored by our Diocese and parish, it is our responsibility and commitment to provide an environment that is safe and nurturing.

Our Parish's Commitment

We are committed to assuring that all clergy, employees, and volunteers who serve in our church or school receive appropriate ongoing training to help them meet their responsibilities for providing an environment that is safe for children. We hope you will find this information helpful for increasing your knowledge and awareness of these issues. If there is anything in these materials about which you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the Safety Officer at 972-542-7170 or via email at pscott@stgabriel.org.

Mandate to report under the policy of the Diocese of Dallas:

The Diocese, through its schools, institutions, agencies, and organizations, has numerous daily contacts with many children. It is, therefore, most important that all persons responsible for the care of children, particularly all staff members of parishes, schools, and agencies in the Diocese of Dallas, protect the rights of children and be alert to the possibility for child abuse. It is the policy of the Diocese of Dallas not only to fulfill the reporting law but to cooperate fully with the investigating civil authorities. Individuals must report incident or suspicions of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. Situations involving minor children must be reported to Texas Child Protection Services at 1-800-252-5400 or in emergency to the appropriate police authority, usually by calling 911. Individuals with knowledge about violations of Diocesan policy should call the Chancellor or the Risk Manager of the Diocese at 214-528-2240, or they may write to them at the Diocese of Dallas, P.O. Box 190507, Dallas, TX 75219.

The National Scope of the Problem of Child Abuse and Neglect

IMPACT:

In the year 2000, an average of 2,400 children were found to be victims of child abuse each day

The impact of abuse is far greater than its immediate, visible effects. Abuse and neglect are associated with short – and long-term consequences that may include brain damage, developmental delays, and learning disorders, problems forming relationships, aggressive behavior, and depression.

Survivors of child abuse and neglect may be at greater risk for problems later in life – such as low academic achievement, drug use, teen pregnancy, and criminal behavior – that affect not just the child and family, but society as a whole.

NUMBERS:

Each week, child protective services (CPS) agencies throughout the United States receive more than 50,000 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect.

In 2000, nearly 3 million reports concerning 5 million children were made.

In almost 2/3 (62%) of these cases, the information provided in the report was sufficient to prompt an investigation. As a result of these investigations, approximately 879,000 children were found to have been victims of abuse or neglect.

Nearly 2/3 (63%) of victims experienced neglect, meaning a caretaker failed to provide for the child's basic needs. Fewer victims were found to have been physically abused (29%) or sexually abused (10%), though these cases are often more likely to be publicized. The smallest number (8%) was found to be victims of emotional abuse, which includes criticizing, rejecting, or refusing to nurture a child.

Tragically, an average of 3 children dies every day as a result of child abuse or neglect.

An Overview of Child Abuse Prevention

CHILDREN:

No group of children is immune.

Boys and girls are almost equally likely to experience neglect and physical abuse. However, girls are 4 times more likely to experience sexual abuse.

Children of all races and ethnicities experience child abuse. In 2000, more than ½ of all reported victims were White (51%); ¼ (25%) were African American; and 14% were Hispanic. American Indian/Alaskan Natives accounted for 2% of victims, and Asian/Pacific Islanders accounted for 1% of victims.

Children of all ages experience abuse, but the youngest children are most vulnerable. Children younger than 1 year old accounted for nearly ½ (44%) of child abuse and neglect deaths reported in 2000; 85% of the children who died were younger than 6 years of age.

PERPETRATORS:

At least 4 out of 5 victims are abused by at least one parent.

By definition, perpetrators of child abuse and neglect are the very people responsible for the child's safety and well-being (including parents, other relatives, and babysitters).

The most common group of people found to be responsible for neglect and physical abuse were mothers acting alone (47% and 32% of victims, respectively). In cases of sexual abuse, non-relatives and fathers acting alone are more likely to be responsible (29% and 22% of victims, respectively)

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau (2002). Child Maltreatment 2000. Washington, D.C. U.S. Government Printing Office. Available online at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm00 or by calling the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information at 1-800-FYI-3366. Statistics in Child Maltreatment 2000 refer to cases of harm to a child caused by parents or other caretakers; they do not include harm caused by other people, such as acquaintances or strangers.

What is Child Abuse?

There are four major types of child maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. Although any of the forms may be found separately, they often occur together.

Each State is responsible for providing its own definition of child abuse and neglect that meet Federal minimum standards found in the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA). Most include the following:

Neglect is failure to provide for a child's basic needs. Neglect may be:

- Physical (e.g., lack of appropriate supervision or failure to provide necessary food, shelter, or medical care).
- Educational (e.g., failure to educate a child or attend to special education needs).
- Emotional (e.g., inattention to a child's emotional needs or exposure to domestic violence).

These situations do not always mean that a child is neglected. Sometimes cultural values, the standards of care in the community, and poverty may be contributing factors, indicating that the family is in need of information or assistance. When a family fails to use information and resources, and the child's needs continue to be unmet, then further child welfare professional intervention may be required.

Physical Abuse is physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) as a result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting (with a hand, stick, strap, or other object) burning, or otherwise harming a child. Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caretaker intended to hurt the child.

Sexual Abuse includes activities by a parent or caretaker such as fondling a child's genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and commercial exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.

Emotional Abuse is any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth. This may include constant criticism, threats, or rejection, as well as withholding love, support, or guidance.

Note: The Federal legislation that provides definitions is included in the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) reauthorization of 1996 (P.L. 106-177). A PDF version is available at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgiin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=106_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ177.106.pdf

What is Child Abuse Prevention?

The goal of child abuse prevention is simple – to stop child abuse and neglect from happening in the first place, sparing children and the family’s emotional and physical trauma and decreasing the need for costly intervention and treatment services.

The best way to prevent child abuse and neglect is to support families and provide parents with the skills and resources they need.

Why Does Child Abuse Occur?

Although all the causes of child abuse and neglect are not known, a significant body of research has identified several risk factors and protective factors associated with child abuse. Studies also have shown that when there are multiple risk factors present the risk is greater. For example, lack of preparation or knowledge of critical issues surrounding parenting, financial or other environmental stressors difficulty in relationships, and depression or other mental health problems can all lead to abusive or neglectful behavior.

Parents may lack an understanding of their children’s developmental stages and hold unreasonable expectations for their abilities. They also may be unaware of alternatives to corporal punishment or how to discipline their children most effectively at each age. Parents also may lack knowledge of the health, hygiene, and nutritional needs of their children.

These circumstances, combined with the inherent challenges of raising children, can result in otherwise well-intentioned parents causing their children harm or neglecting their needs.

How is Child Abuse Prevented?

Prevention efforts build on family strengths. Through prevention activities such as parent education, home visitation, and parent support groups, many families are able to find the support they need to stay together and care for their children in their homes and communities. Prevention efforts help parents develop their parenting skills, understand the benefits of nonviolent discipline techniques, and understand and meet their child’s emotional, physical, and developmental needs. Prevention programs also can help parents identify other needs they may have and offer assistance in getting that additional support.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is an opportunity to highlight the roles we all can play to support parents and families. This month – and throughout the year as we consider child abuse prevention – our attention is best focused on prevention efforts that create healthier environments for children and foster confident, positive parenting.

Building Gateways to Prevention

We all have a role to play in building a strong community in which families and children are valued and supported. It is in these kinds of communities that children are safest from abuse and neglect. Here are some things you can do as a concerned individual.

The Five R's

Prevent Child Abuse America has developed the following “Five R’s,” which can help individuals better understand the role they can play in child abuse prevention.

Raise the Issue

Call or write your candidates and elected officials to educate them about issues in your community and the need for child abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment programs.

Contact your local school district and faith community to encourage them to sponsor classes and support programs for new parents

Reach out to kids and parents in your community.

Anything you do to support kids and parents in your family and extended community helps to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

Be a good neighbor. Offer to baby-sit. Donate your children’s used clothing, furniture, toys for use by another family. Be kind and supportive, particularly to new parents and children.

Remember the risk factors.

Child abuse and neglect occur in all segments of our society, but the risk factors are greater in families where parents:

- Abuse alcohol or drugs
- Are isolated from their families or communities
- Have difficulty controlling their anger or stress
- Appear uninterested in the care, nourishment, or safety of their children
- Seem to be having serious economic, housing, or personal problems

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Recognize the warning signs.

Some of the warning signs that a child might be abused or neglected include:

- Nervousness around adults
- Aggression toward adults or other children
- Inability to stay awake or to concentrate for extended periods
- Sudden, dramatic changes in personality or activities
- Acting out sexually or showing interest in sex that is not appropriate for his or her age
- Frequent or unexplained bruises or injuries
- Low self-esteem
- Poor hygiene

Report suspected abuse or neglect.

If you suspect abuse or neglect is occurring, report it – keep reporting it – until something is done. Contact child protective services (in your local phone book) or your local police department.

Reporting Child Abuse

If you suspect abuse, reporting it can protect the child and get help for the family. Each State identifies mandatory reporters (group of people who are required to report suspicions of child abuse or neglect). However, any concerned person can and should report suspected child abuse.

How do I report child abuse or neglect?

If you suspect a child is being harmed contact your local child protective services (CPS) or law enforcement agency so professionals can assess the situation. When calling to report child abuse, you will be asked for specific information, which may include:

- The child's name
- The suspected perpetrator's name (if known)
- A description of what you have seen or heard
- The names of any other people having knowledge of the abuse
- Your name and phone number

For more information about where and how to file a report, call Childhelp USA[®], National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-4-A-Child[®]).

The names of reporters are not given out to families reported for child abuse or neglect; however, sometimes by the nature of the information reported, your identity may become evident to the family. You may request to make your report anonymously, but your report may be considered more credible and can be more helpful to CPS if you give your name.

Remember – your suspicion of child abuse or neglect is enough to make a report. You are not required to provide proof. Texas has a law to protect people who make good-faith reports of child abuse from prosecution and/or liability.

What will happen when I make a report?

Your report of possible child maltreatment will first be screened by hotline staff or a CPS worker. If the worker feels there is enough credible information to indicate that maltreatment may have occurred or is at risk of occurring, your report will be referred to staff who will conduct an investigation. Reports of lower risk situations may be assigned to another staff member or agency who will conduct an assessment of the family's needs.

Investigators respond within a particular time period (anywhere from a few hours to a few days), depending on the potential severity of the situation. They may speak with the child, the parents, and other people in contact with the child (such as doctors, teachers, or childcare providers). Their purpose is to determine if abuse or neglect has occurred and if it may happen again.

If the investigator finds that no abuse or neglect occurred, or what happened does not meet the Texas state definition of abuse or neglect, the case will be closed and the family may or may not be referred elsewhere for services. If the investigator feels the children are at risk of harm, the family may be referred to services to reduce the risk of future maltreatment. These may include mental health care, medical care, parenting skills classes, employment assistance, and concrete support such as financial or housing assistance. In rare cases where the child's safety cannot be ensured, the child may be removed from the home.

Elderly Abuse

The Problem of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse in domestic settings -- i.e., in a person's own home, apartment or other co-institutional living arrangement -- is a serious problem, affecting hundreds of thousands of elderly people across the country. The problem is largely hidden under the shroud of family secrecy. The signs of elder abuse are not recognized, leading to gross under-reporting of the problem. The true national incidence or prevalence of elder abuse is not known although various studies have attempted to estimate the size of the problem. In 1991, for example, researchers estimated that 2.5 million people were victims of various forms of elder abuse. This figure was adjusted in 1996, based on state reporting data, to suggest that there were between 820,000 and 1,860,000 abused elders in the country.² It is widely accepted that these data help to illuminate the seriousness of the problem; however, no one can say exactly how many cases of elder abuse there are in this country each year.

Types of Elder Abuse in Domestic Settings

The National Center on Elder Abuse defines seven different types of elder abuse: physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; financial exploitation; neglect; abandonment; and self neglect. These definitions are based on an analysis of existing State and Federal definitions of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation conducted by the Center in 1995.

- ***Physical abuse.*** Use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment.
- ***Sexual Abuse.*** Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person.
- ***Emotional abuse.*** Infliction of anguish, pain, or distress through verbal or non-verbal acts.
- ***Financial/material exploitation.*** Illegal or improper use of an elder's funds, property, or assets.
- ***Neglect.*** Refusal, or failure, to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an elderly person.
- ***Abandonment.*** Desertion of an elderly person by an individual who has physical custody of the elder or by a person who has assumed responsibility for providing care to the elder.
- ***Self-neglect.*** Behaviors of an elderly person that threaten the elder's health or safety.

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Possible Indicators of Elder Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

The following descriptions are not necessarily proof of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. But they may be clues that a problem exists, and that a report needs to be made to law enforcement or Adult Protective Services.

Physical Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury that has not been cared for properly • Injury that is inconsistent with explanation for its cause • Pain from touching • Cuts, puncture wounds, burns, bruises, welts • Dehydration or malnutrition without illness-related cause • Poor coloration • Sunken eyes or cheeks • Inappropriate administration of medication • Soiled clothing or bed • Frequent use of hospital or health care/doctor-shopping • Lack of necessities such as food, water, or utilities • Lack of personal effects, pleasant living environment, personal items • Forced isolation
Behavioral Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear • Anxiety, agitation • Anger • Isolation, withdrawal • Depression • Non-responsiveness, resignation, ambivalence • Contradictory statements, implausible stories • Hesitation to talk openly • Confusion or disorientation
Signs by Caregiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevents elder from speaking to or seeing visitors • Anger, indifference, aggressive behavior toward elder • History of substance abuse, mental illness, criminal behavior, or family violence • Lack of affection toward elder • Flirtation or coyness as possible indicator of inappropriate sexual relationship • Conflicting accounts of incidents • Withholds affection • Talks of elder as a burden
Signs of Financial Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent expensive gifts from elder to caregiver • Elder's personal belongings, papers, credit cards missing • Numerous unpaid bills • A recent will when elder seems incapable of writing will • Caregiver's name added to bank account • Elder unaware of monthly income • Elder signs on loan • Frequent checks made out to "cash" • Unusual activity in bank account • Irregularities on tax return • Elder unaware of reason for appointment with banker or attorney • Caregiver's refusal to spend money on elder • Signatures on checks or legal documents that do not resemble elder's

Appendix 1

Tricks Used by Sexual Predators

The Apple Of My Eye Trick	The first trick is named after Laura Ahearn's new book coming soon "The Apple Of My Eye" This trick is top on her list for the most insidious of all tricks because predators use the same innocent vulnerability we strive to protect in our children for purposes of methodically gaining their trust by giving special attention to them so they can eventually sexually abuse them. All children want love, attention and affection this is why they are particularly vulnerable to those who are experts at grooming them to lead to their eventual sexual abuse.
Accidental Touching Trick	Children are often unaware that an accidental touching may be intentional or may be an offender attempting to touch closer to genitalia the next time
Assistance Lure Trick	Offenders may ask a child for help with directions or carrying packages. One convicted offender stated that he liked to hang around kiddie hamburger restaurant bathrooms. He would abuse young boys under the guise of helping them with their zippers. Another type of assistance lure may be an offender who senses a role he might play by assisting a family with children. His assistance might be needed for babysitting or for driving a child to activities. Watch for those who are more interested in your child than you, there is a reason.
Authority Trick	Many of us have taught our children to respect authority without realizing that individuals who target our children take advantage of their position such as a teacher, coach, religious or club leader.
Desensitize Trick	Offenders may continually talk to children about sex or use pornography to demonstrate sexual acts. They may arouse a child's curiosity by leaving sexual material and aids around where they may see them.
Drug & Alcohol Trick	Drugs or alcohol can be used to incapacitate a child making them highly vulnerable to sexual abuse
Emergency Trick	Crisis can be confusing for young children and offenders count on that so they construct an emergency to lure children.
Fame Trick	Promises are made to make the child a movie star
Friendship Trick	Older children may bribe a younger child (or same age) by saying that they will not be their friend anymore unless they participate in a sexual act.
Games Trick	Body contact games such as wrestling are played where touching genitalia is part of the rules.
Hero Trick / Special Privileges Trick	(Coach/Teacher/Person In A Position Of Authority) Children are often impressed with those individuals they look up to such as those in a position of authority like a coach, teacher, older cousin. They may endure abuse to maintain a relationship where they are receiving special privileges for fear of losing those privileges.
"I Know You" Trick	Do not write your child's name on the outside of any of their clothing or items they use outside of their home such as umbrellas or lunchboxes. This gives the offender an opportunity to make your child feel as though they know them.

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Internet Trick	The internet has become a preying ground for sex offenders trying to lure victims. Offenders will try to get specific information from your child without directly asking for it. For example they may ask if your child plays on sports teams which would eventually lead to a discussion of where your child played these games. Ultimately, they want to try to set up a meeting. Predators on the internet may also transmit pornography to your child.
Job Trick	Promises of high paying jobs easily influence young adults into meeting individuals in questionable places for interviews where they may be sexually abused. Young children may be offered high pay for odd jobs inside an offender's house where they too may be sexually abused.
Legitimacy Trick	There are a few organizations that promote sexual relations with children and attempt to legitimize this activity. Those offenders may attempt to convince a child that sex with an adult is a legitimate activity.
Outing Trick	Offender is continually attempting to take a child out alone for special trips or outings and insists that no one else attend. A pediatrician in New York who was convicted of sexually abusing many of his patients would take them away for the weekend quite often. Parents trusted him because he was well liked and perceived as the pillar of the community.
Pet Trick	Similar to the assistance lure, the offender may ask a child to help find his lost dog. They may carry props such as a photo of a dog and a leash.
Teaching Trick	Assistance is offered to a family to help teach a child a sport or how to play a musical instrument, often without cost. Parents from across the nation have also informed that sexual predators may be working as driving school instructors
Threat Trick	Children may be threatened into cooperation and further silenced. Once the abuse has taken place, they threaten to expose the child either to their parents or to their friends. The offender may threaten the abused child into recruiting other children.
Costume Trick	Most volunteers who dress up as clowns, cartoon characters or as Santa Claus during the holiday season are not pedophiles attempting to access children. However, you should always be aware that there are pedophiles that would do anything to get at kids
Source: Parents For Megan's Law, Inc. (PFML) is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) national community and victim's rights organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of childhood sexual abuse through the provision of education, advocacy, counseling, policy and legislative support services.	

Appendix 2

Commonly Asked Questions About Child Sexual Abuse

What Do Sex Offenders Targeting Our Children Count On? As a society we vehemently condemn child molesters but when someone we know in the community is accused, individuals take sides often refusing to believe that "a pillar of the community" could commit this type of a crime. The true seducer type pedophile is extremely good at what he does. He puts himself in a position in his community where he has easy access to children. He will often work hard (sometimes for years) to gain the trust of parents while at the same time be sexually abusing their child. If an allegation is made against this person by another child, it is often too emotionally difficult for families who trusted and allowed the accused into their home to believe that he could commit such an act against a child. The betrayal is too great and many families will not only deny the possibility, but will blame and defame the child making the allegation. This is what the offender counts on. Families tricked by cunning predators could not have possibly imagined the degree of betrayal possible and the extent that a predator would go to, to get at a child.

Are All Child Molesters The Same? No. According to Kenneth Lanning, an FBI Supervisory Agent, child molesters can be divided into two groups. The situational molester is not a true pedophile because he doesn't prefer having sex with children but instead turns to them for any number of reasons including stress, boredom, curiosity or because he is sexually or morally indiscriminate. The preferential child molester is considered the true pedophile because he prefers having sex with children and actually seeks them out. He is sexually attracted to children and has the potential to molest large numbers of victims.

Who Sexually Abuses Children? Males are reported to be the abusers in up to 95% of cases reported. According to Dr. Gene Abel in a National Institute of Mental Health Study, offenders begin molesting by age 15. Profiles from the FBI academy and The National Center For Missing and Exploited Children report that 3/4 of sexual predators are younger than 35 and 80% are of normal intelligence. A U.S. Department of Justice report of incarcerated violent offenders found that 70% of those serving time for violent crimes against children were white. Perpetrators come from all ethnic and socioeconomic positions in our society. Most childhood sexual abuse, up to 90% occurs with someone a child has an established and trusting relationship with, whether know or not by the parent. Approximately 30% of that 90% are relatives. Offenders who commit incest abuse more than one of their children and more than half are also involved with children outside their homes.

Are There Different Types Of Pedophiles? Yes. According to Lanning, there are three major patterns of behavior that emerge with true pedophiles - seduction, introverted and sadistic. The seducer uses a process known as "grooming" which leads to the eventual sexual abuse of a child. According to Seth Goldstein in *The Sexual Exploitation of Children*, once offenders target children they will track them down and methodically approach the child to begin the process of seducing him or her. They may over a long period of time, while gaining their trust and even the trust of the family, shower them with gifts and attention all the while waiting for the right moment to abuse the child. The offender will often wait until the victim is willing to trade sexual acts for attention or other benefits they may have received from the offender.

According to Lanning, the introverted pedophile lacks the inter-personal skills necessary to seduce a child so will usually molest strangers or young children. This type of pedophile may marry a woman and have his own children because he does not have the skills to seduce others. He would most likely molest his children from the time they are infants. Sadistic Molesters do not appear to be in large numbers according to Lanning. This is the type of pedophile who inflicts pain on child victims. They typically use lures or force to gain access to children.

How Common Is Childhood Abduction? According to the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children, each year 3,600 to 4,200 non-family abductions occur. Of the 4,200 only 300 were strangers to the child. Most non-family abductions occur with someone the child has some form of a relationship with. The average victim of abduction and murder is an approximately 11-year-old-girl, who is described as a low risk, normal kid from a middle class neighborhood with a stable family relationship who has initial contact with an abductor within a quarter mile of her home.

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Are There Any Red Flags That I Can Watch Out For? Yes. Following is a listing of characteristics which on their own may not indicate a problem but accompanied with other red flags may indicate a problem:

- Someone who wants to spend more time with your child than you
- Someone who manages to get time alone with or attempts to be alone with your child or other children
- Someone who insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with or holding a child even when a child doesn't want this affection
- Is overly interested in the sexuality of a child or teen
- Spends most of his/her spare time with children and has little interest in spending time with individuals their own age
- Someone who has few or no boundaries
- Regularly offers to baby-sit, help out or takes children on overnight outings alone
- Buys expensive gifts or gives children money for no reason
- Takes children out for day trips or evening events alone
- Frequently walks in on children/teens in the bathroom or while changing

We Recently Received A Sex Offender Notification, What Should We Tell Our Young Child?

Explain the concept of "tricky people" to your child. "Tricky People" may try to manipulate them into certain "situations or actions". They may try to touch children in their bathing suit areas. You may show them the photograph of the offender and explain that this is a tricky person and if the tricky person tries to talk to them they should take three steps back and run like the wind the way the Yello Dyno program instructs them to. Further, if they see the tricky person they should let you or another adult know. Some parents will unfortunately give their children misinformation and you want to be sure that any rumors your child is hearing at school are corrected. For example, after a sex offender notification was implemented in a school one 8-year-old child reported to another that her mom got a note home about a lunatic let loose in the area. As unfortunate as it is, that child's parents missed an opportunity to provide specific information and instill skills that could potentially help that child.

Explain what boundaries are to your child. Boundaries are the limits we establish or may already be established by virtue of the nature of each individual relationship. For example, Coach M has a role and it is to teach a child a certain sport. Teacher has a role as well. Their job is to instruct children in academic matters. Any activity outside the realm of the boundary established must be evaluated and discussed with an adult.

The blurring of boundaries is often what sex offenders who groom children rely upon so please be aware of those boundaries at all times.

One way to do this is to ask yourself the questions, Why? Why does Coach X, Pastor Y or Doctor Z want to be alone with My child? Why should my child be receiving special treatment? Why is this person interested in my child?

Why Are Children Abducted? Family abductions are typically related to custody issues. According to the National Center For Missing & Exploited Children, from a motive perspective, non-family abductions can be divided into six broad categories:

*Non-traditional - Very young children abducted predominately by a woman to fill a perceived void in the offender's life.

*Ransom - Children abducted to obtain financial benefit from the victim's family.

*Profit - Children abducted to obtain financial benefit.

*Sexual - Children abducted primarily for the sexual gratification of the offender.

*Killing - Children abducted to be killed. For some offenders the act of killing itself brings arousal and or gratification

*Miscellaneous Criminal - Children abducted for a variety of criminal reasons which might include stealing a vehicle with a child in it or taking a child as a hostage in an escape attempt.

National Center also reports that the vast majority of sexually motivated child abductors releases their victims alive and sometimes even returns them to the vicinity of their homes.

Is Most Childhood Sexual Abuse Committed By Strangers? No. Strangers are not the most common perpetrators of sexual abuse. Most children are sexually abused by someone known or related to them, often in a position of trust or authority. Studies indicate that no more than 10% to 30% of sex offenders were strangers, meaning that up to 90% of children sexually abused had some type of relationship with their abuser.

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Children are abused most often by someone that they know such as a relative, the best liked coach, the pillar of the community, pediatrician, teacher, scout leader or religious leader. Tricky people who look just like you and me but try to manipulate our children into certain actions or situations.

What Can I DO To Help Prevent My Child From Being Sexually Abused Or Abducted?

Establish and explain healthy boundaries with your child and explain that people have certain roles. For example their music teacher teaches them music, sports coach teaches sports. It is important to be aware and understand the limits or boundaries of those relationships.

Educate yourself and your children as to the tricks that perpetrators use to lure and/or groom children. Stranger Danger child prevention education is outdated and does not address the reality that most children have an established relationship with the abuser or abductor. The National Center For Missing and Exploited Children stress the importance of educating children using clear, calm, reasonable messages about situations and actions to look out for instead of confusing profiles or images of strangers. The Yello Dyno program educates children about tricky people who establish relationships with children or their families for the primary purpose of abusing them.

Incarcerated pedophiles tell us to be suspicious if someone seems more interested in your children than you. One convicted offender said that parents are so naive-they're worried about strangers and should be worried about their brother-in-law. They just don't realize how devious we can be. Another offender told parents that they should know that we will use any way we can to get to children.

Always monitor your children while they are on the internet and stress the importance of never giving out their name and address.

What Are Behavioral/Physical Indicators Of Sexual Abuse? Not all of the following indicators will mean that your child has been victimized. Some behaviors listed can be part of normal development or stress. The greater the number of indicators present and the more sudden the onset, the more reason you have to be concerned. Physical evidence in genital or rectal areas must be taken seriously and treated immediately.

- A Fear Of Certain Places, People, or Activities, Especially Being Alone With Certain People (Children should never be forced or coerced into giving affection)
- Disturbed Sleep/Frequent Nightmares
- Sudden Mood Swings, Withdrawal, Rage, Fear, Anger
- Loss Of Appetite, or Trouble Eating or Swallowing
- Drastic Change In School Performance
- Sexually Acting Out On Younger Children
- Sexual Behavior or Knowledge Beyond Their Years
- Has New Words For Private Body Parts
- Reverting Back To Outgrown Behavior (bedwetting/thumb sucking)
- Difficulty Walking or Sitting
- Pain, Itching, Bleeding Fluid or Rawness In The Private Areas

How Common Is Childhood Sexual Abuse? In the United States, studies report that up to one girl in three or four has been sexually abused by age 18 and one boy in four to 10 has been sexually abused. These statistics do not accurately reflect the actual number of sexual abuse occurrences because most abuse goes unreported. According to the FBI only 1% to 10% is ever disclosed and according to a study conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health, the average molester of girls will victimize fifty girls before being caught and convicted and the average molester of boys will have victimized 150 boys before being caught and convicted. Further, the typical pedophile commits an average of 117 sexual crimes during his lifetime (280 for those molesting boys). The most vulnerable age for sexual abuse is between 7 and 13 years. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that 54% of sexually abused children are victimized before the age of 7 and 84% before the age of 12.

Source: Parents For Megan's Law, Inc. (PFML) is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) national community and victim's rights organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of childhood sexual abuse through the provision of education, advocacy, counseling, policy and legislative support services.

Appendix 3

What Can I Do To Prevent My Child From Being Abducted?

The most important measure you can take is to NEVER leave young children unsupervised! You will also need to teach your children the Ten Rules for Safety, especially the check first rule!

Ten Rules of Safety

Rule 1 - Know who you are and where you live. Your child needs to know vital information that will help them and others if they are ever lost or missing. That information includes their first and last name, their phone number including area code, their street address, town, state and country. They will also need to know how to call for help using 911 on a telephone.

Rule 2 - Know what to do when lost in a store. When lost in a store, your child should scream the name of the person they came with and find the store clerk or the person with the money by the cash register. If they can not find the person with the money, they should find a mother with children. If someone tries to take them outside, to the bathroom or to abduct them, they should scream, "Help me, this is not my father (mother, brother or sister). I don't know them." If your child is missing in a store you should immediately find a clerk, explain the situation and insist that they call security to immediately close all entries and exits in the store.

Rule 3 - Children must be able to identify their body parts. Help your child identify their private parts using the correct terminology. Be sure to identify breasts, vagina, penis and buttocks. Your child must also know that these are private areas that their bathing suit covers. Explain that only Mommy or Daddy may touch in a certain way while being groomed or being examined by a doctor with Mom or Dad present.

Rule 4 - Check First. Young children do not have the capacity to make sound decisions about their personal safety. The check-first rule places the responsibility of making those important safety decisions on adults, where they belong. The check-first rule is based on the premise that adults or older children should not be giving children gifts, offering them rides or coercing them into their home or car, for any reason without checking with their mom, dad or a guardian first. Children must check first before accepting a gift or going anywhere with anyone, even if that person is someone known to them.

Rule 5 - Children must trust their inner voice, especially that yucky feeling. We all have that feeling inside that tells us what feels right and what feels wrong or uncomfortable. Many children who have been sexually abused describe a feeling of discomfort as having a "yucky" feeling inside. You must teach your child to trust or honor their inner voice or that "yuck" feeling. When you feel uncomfortable, do you trust that feeling and take action? The parent who doesn't like others rubbing her child's head, must, herself, trust her inner voice before she can teach her child to. She has to say, "Please do not do that" and "I don't like that" before she can expect to teach her child to do the same. Sometimes parents become so concerned about hurting other people's feelings that they forget that their own children are being harmed if they fail to express and model healthy limit - setting with other adults. This models behavior that tells children that it's okay for someone else to do something offensive that makes you feel "yucky" and you should do nothing about it because you might hurt the other person's feelings. That teaches children to cast aside what they feel as inappropriate to preserve someone else's feelings because what they feel isn't as important. When a child's feelings are continually cast aside, the child learns that the yucky feeling or the alarm inside of them is unimportant, so they eventually begin to disregard it altogether. This muffling of their inner alarm makes them more vulnerable to sexual predators who are masters at selecting children who have been taught not to trust their feelings. You can teach your child to trust the yucky feeling by trusting your children when they are feeling uncomfortable. Depending upon their age, either you must intervene to prevent the offensive behavior and/or you must empower your child by helping them to articulate to the offending person that their behavior is unacceptable.

Rule 6 - Don't be too polite. Here's what one sex offender had to say about being polite: "Know that we will use any way we can to get at children. I was disabled and spent months grooming the parents so they would take me out and help me. No one thought that disabled people could be abusers" Teach children to be respectful of the limits and boundaries of the role a person plays in their lives and to defend those boundaries, but not to just be polite. To adults who were sexually abused as children by clergy,

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being polite and respectful to them meant being silent when they were being sexually abused. Children hold adults in high esteem, and as another sex offender tells us, "Don't teach your kids to do everything that adults tell them, otherwise they'll be too frightened of adult status"

Rule 7 - No Secrets. Some parents believe that they can teach good secrets and bad secrets. I believe that a child should not be expected to keep any secret at all. I have always told parents to explain to their children, quite simply, that secrets are against the rules. They can't tell them and if someone asks them to keep a secret, they are not allowed to. When I am out in the community conducting prevention workshops, parents will test the secret rule by asking if it is okay to keep a surprise party a secret. For whatever reason you conjure up, especially surprise parties, there is no reason why a child should be expected to keep a secret. If you tell your child that there are good secrets and bad secrets then you are giving them the responsibility of deciding whether or not they should keep a secret or tell a responsibility they may not be ready to handle. The no-secret rule eliminates this problem and models healthy boundaries. You shouldn't be telling your child something that needs to be kept secret in the first place.

Rule 8 - Say no and tell when touch is not OK Have your child practice screaming "NO" and telling when someone does or says something that doesn't feel okay. Saying or screaming "No!" and telling is an important concept for your child to understand and feel completely comfortable doing. Role play by pretending to be a person trying to coerce your child into taking off their clothes or assisting them with the buckle on their pants. Be sure to give permission to your child to scream "No, I won't do that" or "No, you can't do that" and let them repeat back to you what you tried to do as part of the telling exercise. Explain that no one is allowed to touch them in their bathing suit or private areas and if someone tries they should scream "No" and tell. Sexual abuse is a violation of a boundary. A boundary is a limit or edge that defines you as separate from others. A parent asked me what they could do to prevent people from continually rubbing their child's full head of curly hair because it was beginning to bother the child. I certainly don't blame the child for being bothered, wouldn't you be bothered if people continually entered your private space to rub your head and tell you how cute you are? Of course this is not a sexual assault, but saying "no" to the easy stuff is what will prepare your child to say "no" if someone tries to touch them in a private area.

Rule 9 - Do not give personal information out on the internet. Children and teens get a lot of benefit from using the Internet, but they can also be targets of crime. If your children are going to use the Internet whether it is to help them with homework or to talk to their friends, there are rules that they must follow:

1. Never give out personal information.
2. Personal information means any information that might help someone find out who your child is.
3. Personal information includes their name, address, phone number, parents'/guardians' names, name of the school they attend, name of the sport teams on which they play, name of the sport fields on which they play, their friends' names or any other information that someone can use to figure out who they are.
4. Never meet anyone in person that you met online.
5. Never send anyone your photo or your school photo without checking first with a parent/guardian.
6. Always tell a parent/guardian if you receive any e-mails or messages that include inappropriate language and photographs or anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

There have been many cases where sexual predators accumulated detailed information about a child over a long period of time. One month a predator might ask the color of your child's uniform and six months later the name of the field on which they play soccer. Over time they develop a very detailed profile of your child and may make attempts to contact them in person. Make your child aware that even the simplest answer to a question might be information someone is using to eventually target them. Sexual predators have found a fertile preying ground on the Internet and your child can avoid danger simply by following these four rules.

Rule 10 - Take Action! "It's your right" Teaching your child to take action is simple. You are giving them permission to take action when they feel uncomfortable or when they have the yucky feeling. I'm reminded of a remarkable story that a friend of mine shared with me about her daughter.

Source: Parents For Megan's Law, Inc. (PFML) is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) national community and victim's rights organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of childhood sexual abuse through the provision of education, advocacy, counseling, policy and legislative support services.

Appendix 4

Megan's Law

Hamilton Township did not know that a twice-convicted sex offender was living across the street until that neighbor was charged with the brutal rape and murder of their daughter.

The crime -- occurring only months after a similar incident in Monmouth County -- prompted passage of state laws requiring notification about sex offenders who may pose a risk to the community

New Jersey's law, commonly known as "Megan's Law," requires convicted sex offenders to register with local police.

Megan's Law also establishes a three-tier notification process to provide information about offenders to law enforcement agencies and, when appropriate, to the public. The type of notification is based on an evaluation of the risk to the community from a particular offender. The Attorney General's Office, in consultation with a special 12-member council, has provided county prosecutors, who must make that evaluation, with the factors to be used in determining the level of risk posed by the offender.

Equipped with the descriptions and whereabouts of high risk sex offenders, communities will be better able to protect their children.

Frequently Asked Questions about Megan's Law

What is the purpose of Megan's Law? Megan's Law is designed to help protect our communities by providing information about convicted sex offenders to law enforcement agencies and, in the case of moderate and high risk offenders, community organizations and the public. The notice will allow communities to take informed and responsible steps to prevent harm.

Are all sex offenders required to register with local police? Sex offenders who have been released from custody since Megan's Law went into effect on Oct. 31, 1994, are required to register with the police. In addition, offenders who were on parole or probation on the effective date of the law, as well as offenders who have been found to be repetitive and compulsive by experts and the courts -- regardless of the date of sentence -- are required to register. Some registrants must verify their addresses annually; others must verify their addresses every 90 days.

What types of offenses require registration? The offenses include aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual contact, endangering the welfare of a child by engaging in sexual conduct which would impair or debauch the morals of the child, luring or enticing and, if the victim were a minor and the offender not a parent, kidnapping, criminal restraint and false imprisonment.

How does the notification process work? The state Departments of Corrections and Human Services are responsible for informing county prosecutors about the anticipated release of sex offenders. In turn, the prosecutors must determine risk to the community -- the likelihood that the offender will commit another crime. Hearings are provided to those offenders who challenge the prosecutor's risk determination or the proposed scope of notification. Notification can proceed when the court issues a final order authorizing the county prosecutor to provide relevant information to the appropriate groups or individuals.

Will I always be notified if a convicted sex offender moves into my neighborhood? Under the law, sex offenders who reside in the community are classified by prosecutors in one of three "tiers" based on the degree of risk they pose to the public: high (Tier 3), moderate (Tier 2) or low (Tier 1). Neighbors are notified of high risk offenders. Registered community organizations involved with children or with victims of sexual abuse, schools, day care centers and summer camps are notified of

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moderate and high risk offenders because of the possibility that pedophiles and sexual predators will be drawn to these places. Staff members at those facilities who deal directly with children or victims are provided with information about the sex offender. Law enforcement agencies are notified of the presence of all sex offenders.

What factors are considered in determining the risk of re-offense? Megan's Law and its guidelines list numerous factors to be considered in weighing the risk of re-offense, including post-incarceration supervision, the status of therapy or counseling, criminal background, degree of remorse for criminal acts, substance abuse, employment or schooling status, psychological or psychiatric profile, and a history of threats or of stalking locations where children congregate.

What information is provided in a notification? In all three levels of notification, the information provided includes the offender's name, description and photograph, address, place of employment or school if applicable, a description of the offender's vehicle and license plate number, and a brief description of the offense.

How will I be informed? You will receive personal notification of the location of all Tier 3 (high risk) offenders in your neighborhood that you are likely to encounter. A law enforcement official, such as a police officer, state police trooper or investigator from your county prosecutor's office, will come to your door and provide you with the pertinent information about offenders in your neighborhood.

What should I do if I receive a notification? Reinforce general precautions about staying away from strangers and ask your children to tell you or their caretakers where they will be at all times. Use the information responsibly. Talk to your children. Tell them to treat the sex offender as a stranger. Tell them where the sex offender lives, what he or she looks like and what to do if they encounter or are approached by that person. If you believe that a crime is being committed by a sex offender contact your local law enforcement agency immediately as you would do in any case of suspected criminal activity.

Are there any other steps I can take to protect my family? Yes. There is no law that can ever completely protect us. Adults need to teach children about basic safety precautions. Check with your child's school to determine whether a program is in place to teach children about strangers. Also, check with the school and other locations where your child spends time on a regular basis to determine whether safety precautions are in place.

What am I prohibited from doing? The prosecutor and the courts are responsible to determine who should receive notice about the presence of a particular individual in the community. You should not take it upon yourself to provide any information you receive to others in the community; that is the job of the prosecutor and local law enforcement. Any actions taken against the individual named in the notification, including vandalism of property, verbal or written threats of harm, or physical violence against this person, his or her family or employer, will result in arrest and prosecution for criminal acts. Vigilantism is not only a crime; it is an action that will undermine the efforts of those who have worked hard to enact this law.

Source: Parents For Megan's Law, Inc. (PFML) is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) national community and victim's rights organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of childhood sexual abuse through the provision of education, advocacy, counseling, policy and legislative support services.

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Appendix 5

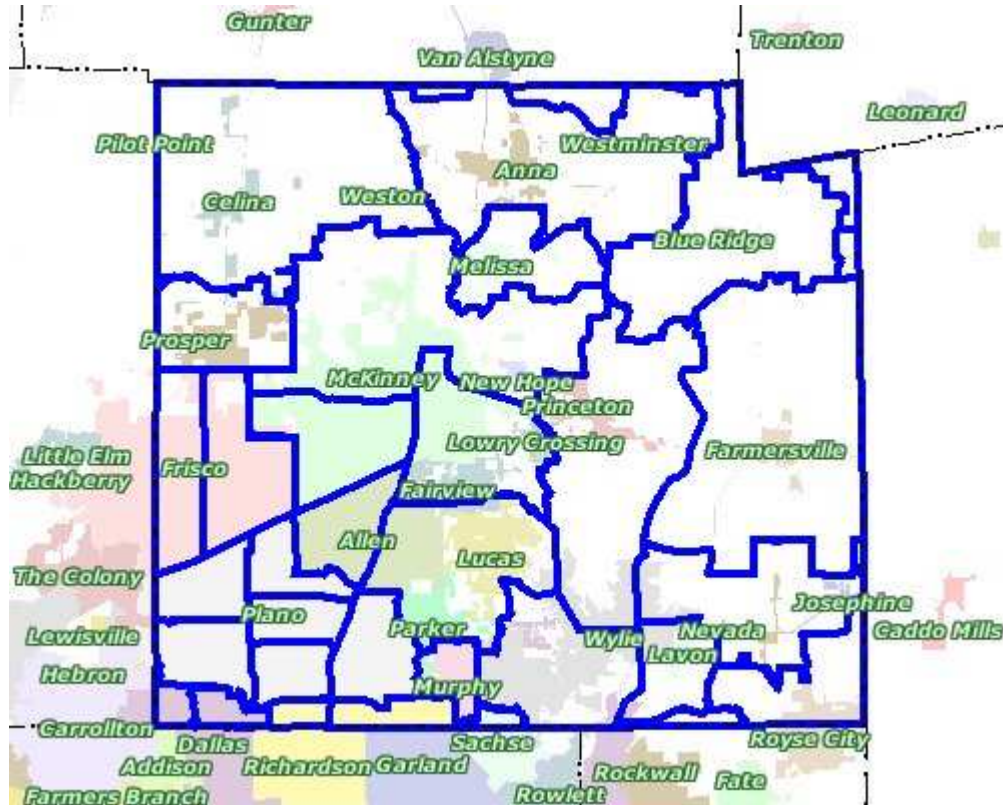
Child Abuse Statistics

Collin County Confirmed Child Abuse/Neglect Victims by Zip Code

Table 1 Collin County Confirmed Victims

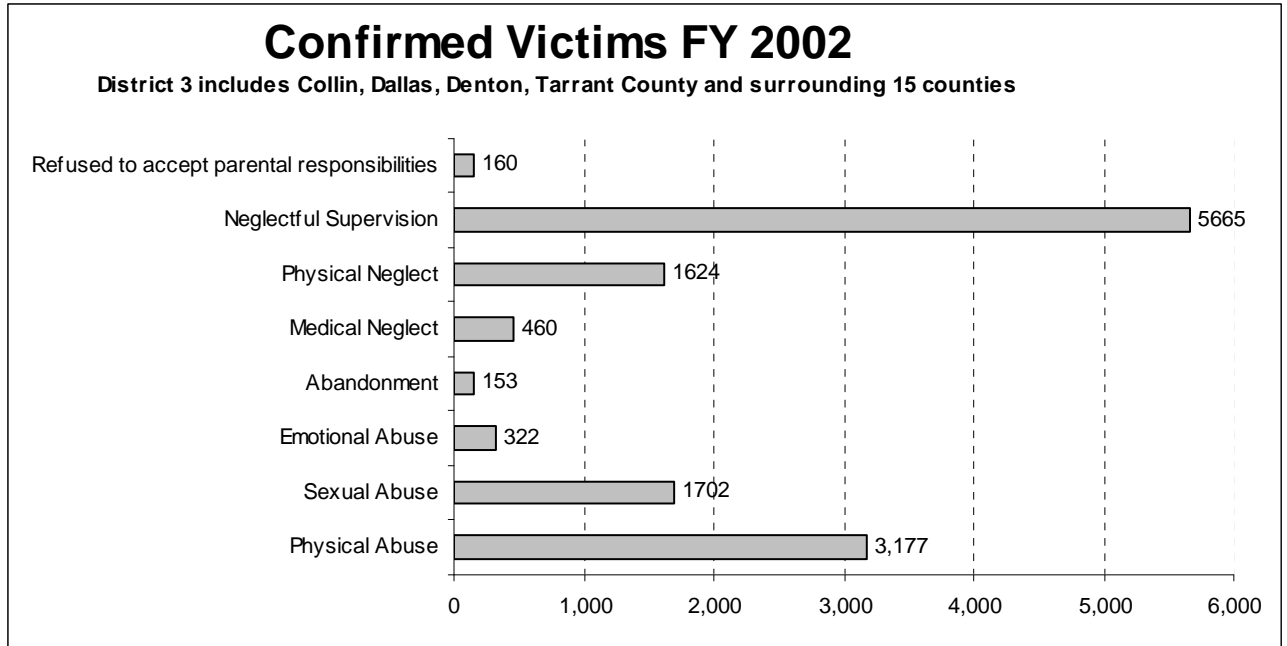
Anna	75002	46	Richardson	75082	4
Celina	75009	9	Plano	75093	25
Allen	75013	5	Plano/Murphy	75094	1
Plano	75023	62	Wylie/St. Paul	75098	69
Plano	75024	5	Lavon	75166	1
Plano	75025	28	Nevada	75173	6
Frisco/Colony	75034	19	Dallas	75252	9
Frisco	75035	24	Dallas	75287	17
Garland/Sasche	75048	5	Princeton	75407	54
Garland	75049	2	Anna	75409	6
McKinney/Fairview	75069	134	Blue Ridge	75424	3
McKinney	75070	39	Farmersville	75442	5
McKinney	75071	23	Melissa	75454	3
Plano/Murphy	75074	93	Unknown		82
Plano	75075	16	Total		692
Richardson/Buckingham	75080	3			

Figure 1 Collin County Map



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Confirmed Child Abuse Victims FY 2002

Figure 2 Confirmed Child Abuse Victims FY 2002



Appendix 6

Domestic Elder Abuse Statistics

(Does not include Nursing Homes, Hospitals or any institutions)

Figure 3 Reports of Domestic Abuse

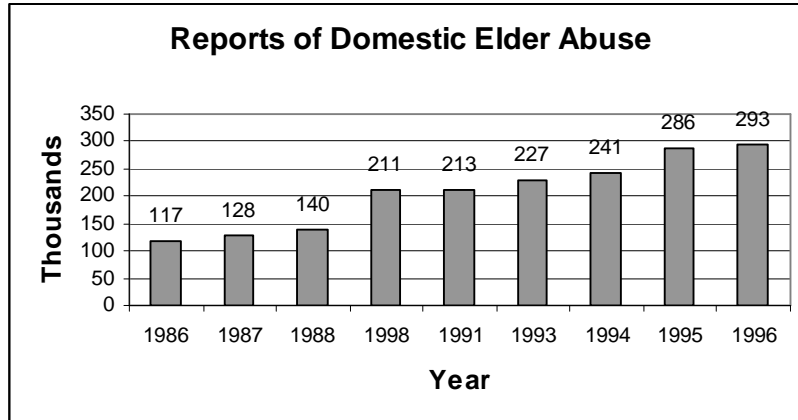


Figure 4 Types of Elder Abuse Reported

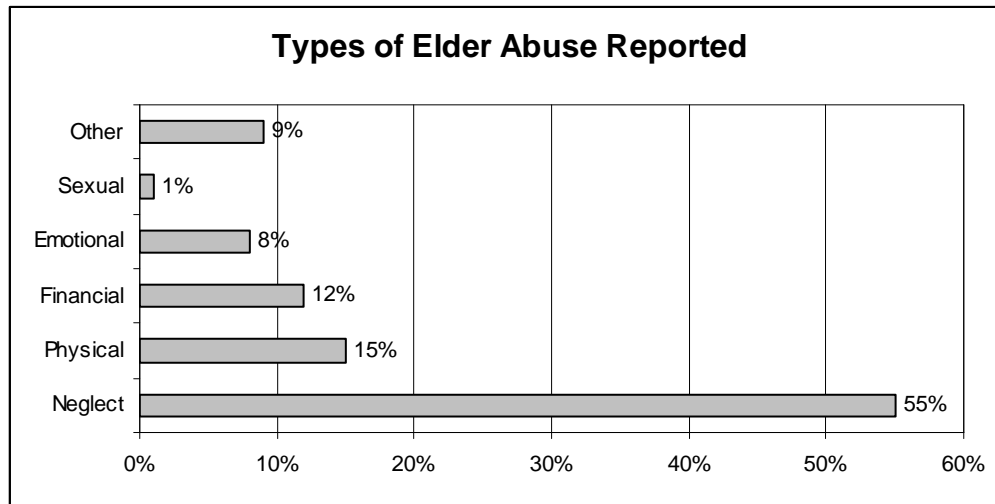
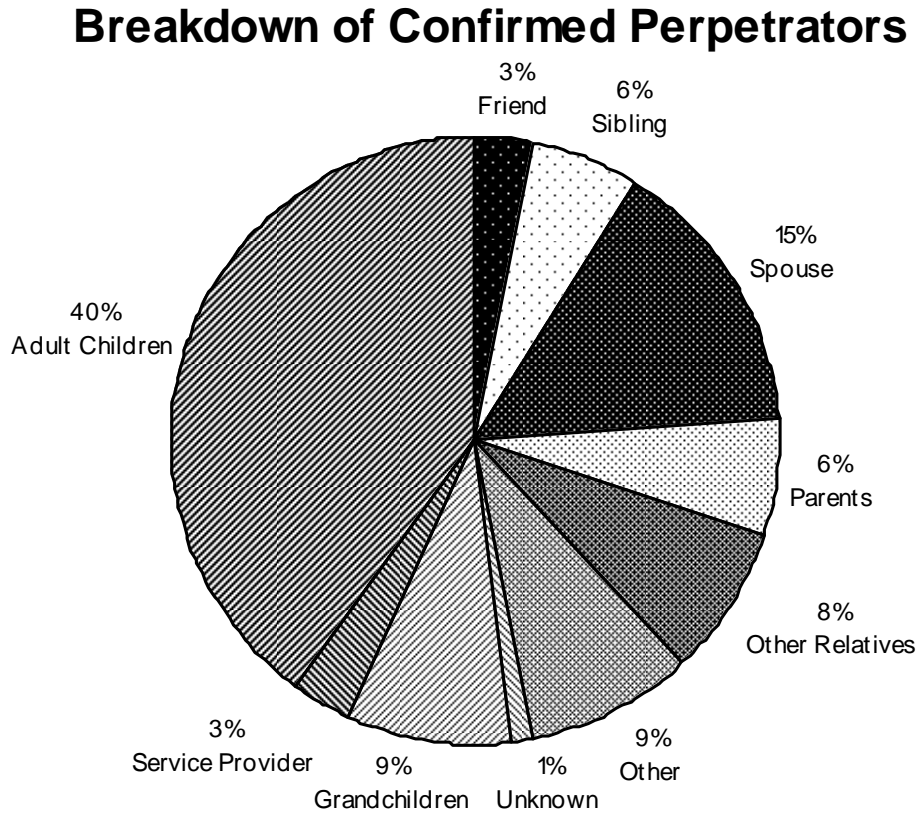


Figure 5 Breakdown of Confirmed Elder Abuse Perpetrators



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Appendix 7

Web Pages and Phone Numbers

<p>Texas Department of Public Safety http://records.txdps.state.tx.us</p>	<p>Web page which allows free search capability by zip code for sex offenders which provides information about the offender, the offense and maps showing the address of the offender</p>
<p>Parents For Megan's Law, Inc. (PFML) http://www.parentsformeganslaw.com</p>	<p>Web page for a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) national community and victim's rights organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of childhood sexual abuse through the provision of education, advocacy, counseling, policy and legislative support services.</p>
<p>National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov</p>	<p>US Department of Health and Human Services web page. Provides information about child abuse. Has statistics about child abuse.</p>
<p>Texas Interagency Council on Early Childhood intervention. (ECI) http://www.eci.state.tx.us/about_eci/index.html</p>	<p>Web page for ECI which is a statewide program for families with children, birth to three, with disabilities and developmental delays. ECI supports families to help their children reach their potential through developmental services. Services are provided by a variety of local agencies and organizations across Texas.</p>
<p>Prevent Child Abuse America http://www.preventchildabuse.org/</p>	<p>For 30 years, Prevent Child Abuse America has been working at the national, state and community levels to prevent child abuse in all its forms. Our many state and local prevention programs help spread the word in your community, creating awareness that prevention is possible. Together, we can make a difference. Remember, a child is helpless – you are not.</p>
<p>Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services</p>	<p>2355 N. Stemmons Frwy. Dallas, TX 75207 Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400</p>
<p>Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline 15757 N. 78th St. Scottsdale, AZ 85260 (800) 4-A-CHILD</p>	<p>Operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The hotline offers crisis intervention, information, literature and referrals.</p>
<p>National Runaway Switchboard 30810 N. Lincoln Ave. Chicago, IL 60657 (800) 621-4000</p>	<p>The National Runaway Switchboard's mission is to facilitate relationships that ensure youth and families have access to resources in their communities.</p>
<p>Eldercare Locator www.elder.org</p>	<p>Nationwide information and resource center for seniors and caregivers.</p>
<p>National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse www.preventelderabuse.org</p>	<p>Association of researchers, medical practitioners and advocates dedicated to the safety and security of the elderly. Serves as the nation's clearinghouse on information and materials on elder abuse and neglect.</p>
<p>National Family Caregiver's Association www.nfcacares.org</p>	<p>Grassroots organization dedicated to improving life for family caregivers, or those caring for loved ones with a chronic illness or disability.</p>

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National Hispanic Council on Aging www.nhcoa.org	Provides information on issues critical to Latino seniors, including those pertaining to health, income, education, employment and housing.
National Institute on Aging www.nia.nih.gov	Information and consumer information on health and research advances in aging issues.
National Senior Citizen's Law Center www.nslc.org	Provides information for elder and dependent adults on such issues as Medicare, Medi-Cal, SSI and pensions.
Nursing Home Compare www.medicare.gov	Site designed to help individuals choose a nursing home, includes comprehensive inspection results for all nursing homes.
Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org	Nonprofit organization provides support, education, training and resources for families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's and related disorders
AARP www.aarp.org	Nationwide advocacy organization for people aged 50 and older. Information and educational resources on an extensive range of subjects, ranging from long-term health care to consumer fraud.
Better Business Bureau www.bbb.org	Provides reports on business and charities, helps resolve consumer complaints, and provides consumer counseling.
Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at (800) 621-0508. www.oag.state.tx.us/consumer/complain.shtml	If you have a consumer complaint or want to download the consumer complaint form from the web site or fill out the online complaint form
Texas Legal Services Center (800-622-2520). www.tlsc.org .	Legal hotline and web site for older Texans
Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (800) 622-2520 - 24-hour toll free abuse hotline	If you suspect that an elderly or disabled person is being abused, neglected, or exploited and is in immediate danger, call 911 or local law enforcement.
Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit: Telephone: (512) 463-2011 Fax: (512) 320-0974 E-mail: mfcu@oag.state.tx.us	To report abuse or neglect of a Medicaid recipient
Texas Department of Human Services Hotline (800) 458-9858.	To complain about a nursing home, assisted living facility, or home health agency.

Abuse Prevention and Reporting Self Assessment Form

Name _____

1. What is your legal obligation if you suspect child abuse?

2. Are you required to provide proof of child or elderly abuse? Yes ___ No ___

3. What are some types of elder abuse in domestic settings?

4. What are some red flags that could indicate a person is a child molester?

5. Is most childhood sexual abuse committed by strangers? Yes ___ No ___

6. What are some things you can do to help prevent a child from being sexually abused?

**We sincerely thank all those who share their time and talents as employees of and/or volunteers
in the programs and activities of St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Community**

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Signature Form

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM
ANNUAL TRAINING UPDATE
SIGNATURE FORM

Please print legibly or you may not receive credit. Please print first, middle (name or initial), and last name. Also include a suffix (e.g. Jr., Sr., etc.), if applicable.

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email _____

Please print email carefully

I have read the materials provided to me in the Safe Environment Program Training Update on **abuse prevention and reporting**. The topics covered in this material included:

- Child Abuse
- Elderly Abuse
- Abuse prevention
- Reporting procedures

I filled out the "Self Assessment Form" on this topic and it is attached to this form.

I understand that by doing so I have met the annual training requirements under our parish's Safe Environment Program. If there is anything I do not understand or if I have any questions about anything I read in these materials I will contact the Safety Officer at the church office 972-542-7170.

My Signature: _____ Date: _____

The date 12-months from today's date is _____. I know I must complete my next annual training no later than this date if I wish to remain eligible to serve.

**Please drop this form and assessment off at or mail it to your church office,
Attention Safety Officer**

St. Gabriel's is a Stewardship parish. This (program is made possible by the generous stewardship contributions of many parishioners. Our parish relies on these contributions, given in thankful response to God's generosity, to fund parish ministries and activities like this.