

What is Child Sexual Abuse?

Child Sexual Abuse is a form of child abuse that includes sexual activity with a minor.

Sexual Abuse includes:

- Obscene phone calls, text messages, or digital interaction.
- Fondling.
- Exhibitionism or exposing oneself to a minor.
- Masturbation in the presence of a minor or forcing the minor to masturbate.
- Intercourse.
- Sex of any kind with a minor, including vaginal, oral, or anal.
- Producing, owning, or sharing pornographic images or movies of children.
- Sex trafficking.
- Any other sexual conduct that is harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare.

Who are the abusers?

- It is estimated that 93% of child victims under the age of 18 know their abusers (RAINN). The abuser can have any relationship with the child including but not limited to: a family member, an older sibling or playmate, a teacher, a coach or instructor, a caretaker, or the parent of another child, etc. Most commonly, the #1 abuser in child sexual abuse cases is the mother's boyfriend.

Child Abusers & the Grooming Tactic:

- The abuser uses the following grooming tactics:
 - Identify and target the child.
 - Gain trust and access to the child.
 - Play a role in the child's life.
 - Isolate the child.
 - Create secrecy around the relationship.
 - Initiate sexual contact.
 - Control the relationship.