The Alameda County District Attorney's Office Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit specializes in the prosecution of child molesters. The team is dedicated to helping children navigate their way through the criminal justice system and to convicting their perpetrators.

The Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit successfully convicts hundreds of child molesters each year making our community a safer place for our children. Many persons convicted of child sexual assault must register as sex offenders. The perpetrators can be identified under California's Megan's Law, which provides the public with certain information on the whereabouts of sex offenders so that members of our local communities may protect themselves and their children.

The District Attorney Victim-Witness Assistance Division provides support to the children and their families throughout the criminal justice process. Counseling is available to help children heal from their victimization.

Call the **Victim-Witness Assistance Division** of the Alameda County District Attorney's Office at **(510) 272-6180** or the **Alameda County Family Justice Center** at **(510) 267-8800** with any questions regarding reporting child sexual assault crimes.

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WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Facts About Child Sexual Assault

WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Child Sexual Assault or "child molestation" occurs when an adult or another child uses a child for sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or an observer.

Child sexual abuse includes touching and non-touching conduct:

- Sexual kissing
- Inappropriate touching or fondling of the child's genitals, breasts or buttocks
- Masturbation
- Oral-genital contact
- Sexual or digital penetration
- Exposure or "flashing" of body parts to the child
- Forcing a child to view or participate in pornography
- Child human trafficking
- Voyeurism

WHAT DO TO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES SEXUAL ABUSE

- Show that you understand and take the child seriously.
- Tell the child that he or she is not to blame for what happened. Most children believe that they have somehow caused the abuse to happen.
- Assure the child that he or she did the right thing by reporting. A child who is close to the abuser may feel guilty about revealing the abuse.
- Protect the child by getting him or her away from the abuser immediately.
- Immediately report the abuse to the local police department. Failure of a parent to report disclosure by a child could lead to criminal prosecution of that parent.
- Allow the experts to interview the child about the details of the assault.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The child is a victim. Children, because of their age, cannot give meaningful consent to sexual activity.
- Most victims of child sexual assault are molested by someone they know and trust. 60% of perpetrators are known to the child, but are not family members. 30% of perpetrators are family members. Only 10% of perpetrators are strangers to the child.
- Children of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultures and economic backgrounds can be victims of sexual abuse.
- Perpetrators of child sexual assault come from all age groups, races, religions and socioeconomic classes. Many may be respected members of the community who are drawn to settings where they gain access to children, like schools, churches and clubs.
- Educate your child on how to distinguish between good and bad touches and how to respond appropriately to unwanted touches.