

PROJECT STAY ALERT

An Online Violence Prevention Education Program of
The Fort Worth Police Department

Violence Prevention Education About
CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

The Fort Worth Police Department Violent Personal Crimes Section (VPC) E-Prevention Program

This **PROJECT STAY ALERT** slideshow is the production of the Fort Worth Police Department Violent Personal Crimes Section. We're excited that computer technology offers us another tool to help reduce your risk of being the victim of violent crime. We call the use of the internet to perform crime prevention education: "*E-Prevention.*"

Our department's mission is to provide quality service in partnership with the community to create a safe environment for all. Join us in accomplishing this mission by practicing these principles and reducing your degree of risk to violent crime - **STAY ALERT**.

ATTENTION

THIS PRESENTATION IS NOT A SELF-DEFENSE COURSE. IT IS A COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND PERSONAL SAFETY.

YOUR DECISIONS CAN INCREASE OR DECREASE YOUR POTENTIAL FOR BEING A CRIME VICTIM.

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

What is Child Abuse?

In the State of Texas, Child Abuse Is...

Mental or emotional injury to a child that results in an observable and material impairment in the child's growth, development, or psychological functioning.

Physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child, or the genuine threat of substantial harm from physical injury to the child.

Leaving a child in a situation where the child would be exposed to a substantial risk of physical or mental harm, without arranging for necessary care for the child.

Failing to seek, obtain, or follow through with medical care for a child.

The failure to provide a child with food, clothing or shelter necessary to sustain the life or health of the child.

Sexual conduct with a child.

The Startling Fact About Child Abusers

Although the abduction and abuse of a child by a stranger is a real and serious threat, it IS NOT the most common threat to children.

The Startling Fact:

In 92% of child abuse cases investigated through child advocacy centers nationwide, the abuser was A PERSON KNOWN BY THE CHILD VICTIM.

Child Abuse Can Be Prevented Through:

Education

Supporting families at risk

Taking extra precautions to ensure that children are **ONLY** placed in the care of those that a person has reason to believe are safe and competent.

Signs of Child Abuse

Signs that a Child Could Be the Victim of Abuse

Cuts, burns, bite marks or bruises on a child's body that can't be explained, or are seen on a consistent basis.

A child that is experiencing irrational fears of being with certain family members.

A child's injuries covered by clothing that is out of season, such as long-sleeve shirts worn during hot temperatures.

A child that has a sexually transmitted disease (STD), or physical evidence of an STD.

Pregnancy.

Sexual activity in children at very young ages, or young children sexually victimizing other children.

A child that is experiencing difficulty in sitting or walking.

Listen, and Be Prepared to Act

Child abuse can happen in any setting, and the abuser may be anyone who comes in contact with the child, including those who are responsible for the child's care and safety.

We must believe that child abuse does occur, and be prepared to take action when there is reason to do so.

If a child discloses abuse to you, it's important to believe the child and seek support from professionals.

Be aware of the physical signs of abuse and neglect, behavior changes, and changes in relationships with peers.

Sometimes it's hard to determine what is different or out of place. So just remember, if it doesn't seem right, it probably isn't.

Your actions could be a child's only link to the help he or she needs.

Who Should You Call?

On occasion, your observations of a child or parent may lead you to suspect child abuse.

Don't assume that someone else will make a report.

Don't second guess - ACT!

Remember that by reporting, you are taking steps in rebuilding a family and ending a child's suffering.

Call These Services?

Child Protective Services hotline at 1-800-252-5400

Fort Worth Police Department at (817) 335-4222

Outside Fort Worth, Texas, call your local law enforcement agency

Help for Victims of Violent Crime

The Fort Worth Police Department Victim Assistance Unit helps those victimized in our city, and their families, deal with the trauma of being a crime victim. Their services include:

Crisis counseling for victims and their families

Information and referrals to local resources and social services

Explanation of the criminal justice system, case status information, and referral to assigned detective

Assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation application

For assistance, call the Victim Assistance Unit at (817) 392-4390.

Once a case has been filed, you may also contact the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Unit at (817) 884-2740.

Citizens On Patrol & Crime Watch

Fort Worth citizens,

You can become more involved in the fight against crime by joining your local Fort Worth Police Department **Citizens On Patrol** or **Crime Watch**. To inquire about Citizens On Patrol, call the COP Coordinator on your side of town:

North Division COP Coordinator	(817) 253-2996
East Division COP Coordinator	(817) 871-5220
South Division COP Coordinator	(817) 922-3400
West Division COP Coordinator	(817) 392-4740

To inquire about Crime Watch, call the Crime Prevention Specialist on your side of town:

North Division Crime Prevention Specialist	(817) 740-2119
East Division Crime Prevention Specialist	(817) 871-5200
West Division Crime Prevention Specialist	(817) 392-4764
South Division Crime Prevention Specialist	(817) 922-3400

Please share this
information with others.

STAY ALERT!