

Did You Know?...

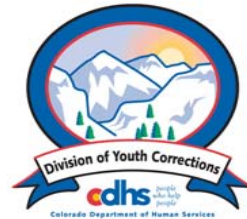
- Sexual abuse happens to people of all ages
- Sexual abuse can happen to males and females.
- Sexual abuse may be motivated by factors such as power, social and interpersonal deficits, and low self esteem.
- Sexual abuse has nothing to do with sexual orientation.
- Victims and offenders may be either heterosexual or homosexual.
- The fact that a victim of sexual abuse became sexually aroused does not mean they were not raped or that they gave consent. These are normal, involuntary reactions.
- Any sexual contact between staff and youth is against the law.
- It is common for survivors of sexual assault to have feelings of embarrassment, anger, guilt, panic, depression and fear even several months or years after an attack.

If you sexually abuse a youth you should know...

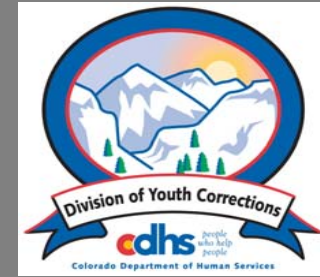
The Division of Youth Corrections has a ZERO tolerance for sexual abuse/misconduct.

If you are hurt by another resident or staff, please let a trusted adult know. We will support and ensure your safety.

You will be held responsible if you choose to hurt another resident. If you are charged and adjudicated your sentence could be increased. Also, if you make false allegations you will be held accountable.



Materials adopted from National Institute of Corrections and State of Ohio.



What you should know about sexual abuse.



What is Sexual Abuse?

Sexual abuse is an undesired sexual act by another juvenile or staff. It is often referred to as “bad touch.” Types of sexual abuse include forced sexual behavior, verbal behavior, and the use of a position of trust to engage in sexual behavior.

Sexual abuse affects everyone, either directly or through the experiences of those we care about. It can affect any male or female of any age, race, ethnic group, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation or disability.

Division of Youth Corrections has a zero tolerance for sexual abuse, assault, and misconduct.

Incidents like this are rare because we have comprehensive ways to ensure physical and psychological safety.

Sexual Abuse Prevention

- Be aware of situations that make you feel uncomfortable. Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong, TELL A STAFF MEMBER YOU TRUST.
- Don't be afraid to say “NO” or “STOP IT NOW.”
- Walk and stand with confidence.
- Avoid talking about sex or being partially dressed. These things may make another youth believe that you have an interest in a sexual relationship.
- Do not accept commissary items or other gifts from other youth or placing yourself in debt to another youth which can lead to the expectation of repaying the debt with sexual favors.
- Avoid secluded areas. Position yourself in plain view of staff members. If you are being pressured for sex, report it to a staff person immediately.
- Avoid horseplay or other physical contact.
- Be completely open and honest with intake or assessment staff when asked regarding personal behaviors, they can't help if they have wrong information.
- Develop trust and rapport.
- Avoid alcohol or other drugs. They can affect your judgment and your ability to leave the situation.

What do you do if you are sexually abused...

If the assault has just happened...

- Get in a safe place. Report the abuse to a trusted adult.
- Request immediate medical attention. You may have serious injuries that you aren't aware of, and any sexual contact can expose you to sexually transmitted diseases.
- Do not shower, brush your teeth, use the restroom, or change your clothes. You may destroy important evidence.
- Report the abuse to a trusted staff immediately.

If you have been abused or witnessed abuse, but you are unwilling to report it to your unit staff, then you may fill out a grievance form, write a letter to Administration, request to see the Chaplain, talk to Client Manager, parent, or a trusted Adult. IF YOU HAVE A DISABILITY, EITHER PHYSICAL OR MENTAL, YOU MAY REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE TO: THE LEGAL CENTER FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, 455 SHERMAN ST. STE. 130, OR BY PHONE AT 303-722-0300 EXT. 228

Later on...

- Seek assistance from staff member or trusted adult, including clinicians.
- Seek the support of a trusted friend or family member.
- Develop a Safety Plan with staff
- File charges!
- Seek ongoing counseling support.
- Seek Victim Assistance.