

## Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse affects different children in different ways. The indicators of child sexual abuse are common coping strategies for most children when dealing with common everyday stress in their lives. As such, when reviewing some of the child sexual abuse indicators, take note that if a child is showing one or two of these behaviors, it does not necessarily mean they are being abused but rather may be indicators of stress in their lives which still requires intervention.

- Unusual physical injuries to the body
- Unusual illness, nausea, headaches
- Trouble sleeping/nightmares/ bed-wetting
- Withdrawal
- Changes at School
- Unhappiness
- Aggression
- Destructive Behavior
- Sexual Acting

**Remember:** There may not always be obvious signs of sexual abuse

## If a Child Has Been Sexually Abused They May Feel:

- Sad, Scared
- Worried, Confused
- Guilt, Shame
- Helplessness
- Shock
- Fear, Anxiety
- Embarrassment
- Emotionally numb

## CCASA

CCASA is the primary sexual assault and sexual abuse crisis and education service provider for Calgary and surrounding areas. CCASA provides safe, accessible, professional services for people of all races, abilities, religions, sexual orientations, and genders.

### Our Vision

Healthy communities free of sexual abuse and sexual assault.

### Our Mission

Provide leadership to impact attitudes and actions around sexual abuse and sexual assault.

### CCASA offers free and confidential services

- Individual Counselling
- Group Counselling
- 24-Hour Support and Information Line
- 24-Hour Toll Free Line (in Alberta)
- 24-Hour Hospital Accompaniment
- Public Education and Outreach
- Police And Court Education and Support (P.A.C.E.S.)

Arrangements for interpreters available upon request.

For more information on our programs and services as well as community engagement and volunteer opportunities please visit:

Website: [calgarycasa.com](http://calgarycasa.com)

Phone: 403-237-6905 Fax: 403-264-8355

Address: Suite 700, 910 7th Ave SW,  
Calgary AB, T2P 3N8



[pchs4u.com](http://pchs4u.com) [canadiansikhnetwork.com](http://canadiansikhnetwork.com) [calgarycasa.com](http://calgarycasa.com)

# Child Sexual Abuse

It Happens in **Every** Community  
**Stop** it from Happening in Yours!



Members of the Indo-Canadian Community have been working with Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA) on the Building Capacity Through Partnership project (BCP) to raise awareness of and educate community members on Child Sexual Abuse within the Indo-Canadian community in Calgary.

## What is Child Sexual Abuse?

Child Sexual Abuse as defined by the CCASA “Who Do You Tell?”™ child sexual abuse safety and education program is:

When someone bigger or older looks at or touches the private parts of a child’s body for no good reason; or when someone bigger or older asks a child to look at or touch their private parts.

It would also not be ok for someone to show a child pictures, movies or websites of people not wearing any clothes or people doing sexual things. It is not ok to talk to a child in a sexual way.

## Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse is an issue that affects the lives of many children, one in three girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused by the age of 17 (Badgely, 1984).

## Who Sexually Abuses Children?

Children are most often sexually abused by someone they know and trust such as a family member, friend or other individuals that the family or child may know in the community 80-85% of the time (Stats Can., 1996).

If you are in need of support or would like information call Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse:

**403-237-5888 (24 hrs.)**  
**1-877-237-5888 (24 hrs. toll free)**  
**Free and Confidential services**

## Reasons Why a Child May Find it Hard to Talk About Being Sexually Abused:

- Children are most often abused by someone they know and trust therefore a child may want to protect the person who is abusing them
- Children may find sexual abuse to be an uncomfortable topic to bring up and are too embarrassed or ashamed to talk about it
- Often times children do not think telling their parents is an option therefore children may not know who they can tell
- The child may have been threatened to keep silent by the person who abused them
- Child’s fear of being disbelieved
- Child’s fear of being held responsible or being punished

## What You Can Do About Child Sexual Abuse

- Educate yourself about what child sexual abuse is by visiting the CCASA website at calgarycasa.com
- Talk to the children in your life about their bodies and about what child sexual abuse is
- Let children know that they have the right to say “no” to any touch to their body that makes them feel sad, scared or uncomfortable
- Teach children that the most important thing to do if this kind of touch ever happened to them would be to tell an adult that they trust

**Child Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse are crimes. Every adult is responsible by law to report a suspected case of child abuse and/or child sexual abuse.**

## If a Child Tells You That They are Being Sexually Abused:

- Believe the child
- Let the child know it is not their fault
- Do everything you can to keep that child safe

## Child Sexual Abuse Myths:

**Parents Would Know if Their Child Was Being Sexually Abused** – Many children do not exhibit symptoms of sexual abuse at all (CFS, 2010). Most parents trust the individuals they leave their children with (Collins, 1996; Wurtele, Kvarternick & Franklin, 1992).

**Children Often Lie About Being Sexually Abused** - 96 to 98% of sexual violence reports are investigated to be factual (U of A, Sexual Assault and the Law in Canada).

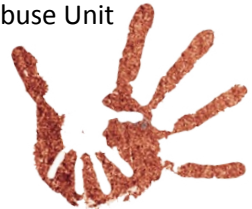
**Offenders Sexually Abuse Children Because They Cannot Find a Consenting Sexual Partner** - Most sexual assault and sexual abuse offenders are married or in consenting relationships (Brown, n.d.).

## Reporting Child Abuse

Calgary and Area Child and Family Services  
403-297-2995 (24 hrs.)

Calgary Police Service – Child Abuse Unit  
403-266-1234 (24 hrs.)  
403-206-8390 (bus. Hrs.)

Child Abuse Hotline  
1-800-387-5437



**We all have something to gain by becoming involved in the prevention of sexual violence!**