

Possible Signs of Sexual Abuse in Children

- Unexplained nightmares or sleeping difficulties
- Distracted or distant at odd times
- Abrupt change in eating habits , refuses to eat or has unusual increase or decrease in appetite
- Difficulties in swallowing
- Abrupt mood swings such as rage, fear, insecurity or withdrawal
- Gives clues that seem likely to provoke a discussion about sexual issues
- Develops new or unusual fear of certain people or places
- Refuses to talk about a secret kept with an adult or older child
- Writes, draws, plays or dreams of sexual or frightening images
- Talks about a new older friend
- Unexpectedly has money, toys, or other gifts without a reason
- Thinks of self or their body as repulsive, dirty or bad
- Demonstrates language and knowledge of adult-like sexual behavior

Possible Signs of Sexual Abuse in Adolescents

- Self-injury such as cutting or burning
- Inadequate personal hygiene
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Sexual promiscuity
- Running away from home
- Depression & anxiety
- Suicide attempts
- Fear of intimacy or closeness
- Compulsive eating or dieting

Possible Signs of Sexual Abuse in Adults

- Reminders of the assault provoking fear responses
- Pervading sense of anxiety, wondering whether it is possible to ever feel safe again
- Re-living the assault repeatedly through flashbacks
- Difficulties with the ability to concentrate and focus on the task at hand
- Having feelings of guilt, anger, depression and a loss of interest in sex
- Developing a sense negative self-image and feeling dirty both inside and/or out
- Troubles in close relationships

Possible Signs that Suggest Someone Could be Sexually Abusing a Child

- Making others feel uncomfortable by ignoring social, emotional or physical boundaries and limits

- Refusing to let a child set any of his or her own limits and/or preventing a child to set their own limits through means of teasing or belittling language
- Insisting on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with or holding a child when that child does not want to the physical contact or attention
- Turning to a child for emotional or physical support by disclosing personal or private information or activities that are normally disclosed to adults
- Commonly pointing out sexual images or telling inappropriate and/or suggestive jokes while children are present
- Exposing a child to adult sexual interactions without noticeable concern
- Having secret interactions with adolescents or children using game playing, drugs, alcohol and sexual material or spending excessive time e-mailing, texting or calling children or adolescents
- Being overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child or teen such as talking repeatedly about the child's developing body or interferes with normal teen dating
- Insisting on or managing to spend unusual amounts of uninterrupted time alone with a child
- Seeming "too good to be true" such as by frequently babysitting different children for free, takes children on special outings alone, buys children gifts or gives them money for no apparent reason
- Commonly walking in on children/teens in the bathroom
- Allowing children/teens to consistently get away with inappropriate behaviors

Source: The U.S. Department of Justice- National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) **(Please don't forget to include this!)**