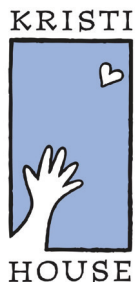


HANDBOOK

for **Parents & Guardians**

Welcome



Kristi House Children's Advocacy Center



Contact Names and Numbers

Please write contact names and phone numbers on this page.



FAMILY ADVOCATE (CARE COORDINATOR):

THERAPIST:

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN and FAMILIES:

CHILD PROTECTIVE INVESTIGATOR:

ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY:

GUARDIAN AD LITEM:

DETECTIVE:

KRISTI HOUSE: 305-547-6800 • www.kristihouse.org

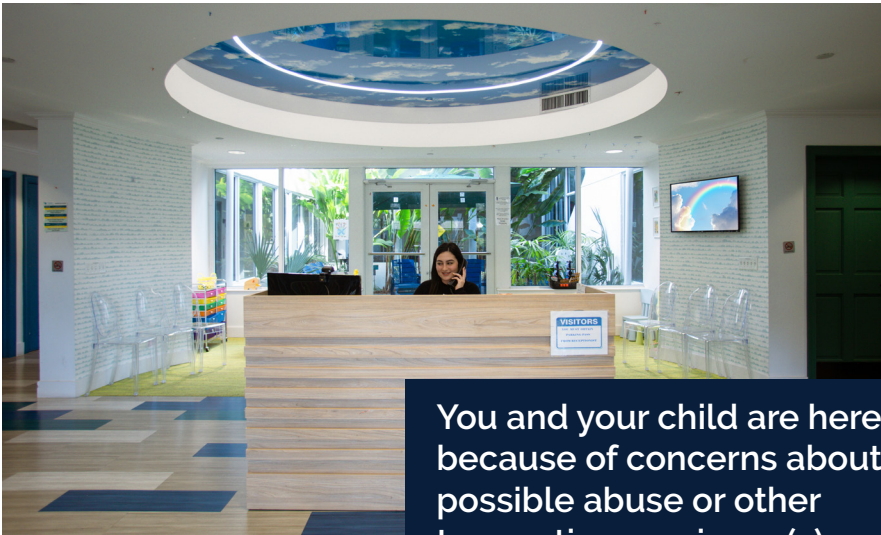
   @kristihouseCAC

The children and parents depicted in this handbook are actors, not actual clients.

WELCOME TO KRISTI HOUSE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER



The staff of Kristi House is dedicated to respecting, honoring, protecting and healing the children and families who pass through our doors.



You and your child are here because of concerns about possible abuse or other traumatic experience(s).

Our Goals

- Try to find out what happened to your child.
- Answer any questions you or your child might have.
- Assist you and your child through the legal, medical, and protective process.
- Help you with services you and your child need to heal.

All services provided by Kristi House Children's Advocacy Center are 100% free of charge for children and their families.



Clients Rights and Responsibilities

- 1.** In the provision of service to clients, Kristi House will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, age, sex, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, country of national origin, or ability to pay. Clients or their guardians may file a complaint directly with the Florida Department of Children and Families if they believe they have been discriminated against in violation of Title VI.
- 2.** Our clients or their guardians can reach us from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. After hours, our clients can leave a voice mail message and we will return their call as soon as possible.
- 3.** Our clients or their guardians have a right to review his/her record as prescribed by Kristi House procedures. They have the right to participate and ask questions about all aspects of services being planned or delivered.
- 4.** Our clients or their guardians have a right to refuse treatment. We must inform other professionals involved, and close the case.
- 5.** Our clients or their guardians have the right to be told if the program cannot provide services and be advised of alternative services. Clients with substance use disorders will not be refused services. Coordination of therapeutic service will be the responsibility of the Care Coordinator and Therapist.
- 6.** Our clients or their guardians have the right to confidentiality. We may only release information when given written permission by the legal guardian, ordered by the court, and/or we suspect our client is being harmed, may harm himself/herself, or someone else.
- 7.** Our clients shall release us from any Liability and Responsibility if they speak with or disclose to the Media any information pertaining to their case and or services being provided by Kristi House, Inc.
- 8.** Our clients or their guardians have a right to discuss a grievance directly with the staff member involved. If problems are not resolved to our client's guardian's satisfaction, they have a right to request that the staff member's supervisors respond to the problem in writing within 10 business days.
- 9.** Our clients or their guardians have the right to not participate in any experiment or research program. Should any such program be started, the client must be advised and freely agree to be a part of it. Any tape recording or filming of any client information or communication will be done only with the client's consent.
- 10.** The guardians of our clients are responsible for the wellbeing and supervision of their children while at the center. All clients under 3 years of age must remain with their guardians at all times. The staff has the right to cancel or reschedule appointments for clients who put other clients or staff members at risk for harm or illness.

YOUR TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS



At Kristi House Children's Advocacy Center, we are fortunate to have a highly trained team of professionals which meets every week to respond to child abuse reports.

The Children's Advocacy Center has an investigative branch and a services branch. The **investigative branch** includes specialists from the State Attorney's Office, Department of Children and Families, and law enforcement for those situations where a legal case is being pursued. The **services branch** is carried out by Kristi House and its Family Advocates and Therapists who are focused on helping your child heal emotionally.

Forensic Interviewers:

The Forensic Interviewer will conduct fact gathering interviews of children between the ages of 3 and 11 who have been victims or witnesses of a crime. He or she will interview you and your child to try to find out what happened. The interviews are conducted in a non-threatening, child-friendly manner. Interviews are recorded and can be used to reduce the number of times your child will have to give information and to assist the investigation and prosecution of the case.



Family Engagement Specialists:

These specialists are on hand to explain all the services available to your child or adolescent, all at no cost, from Kristi House and its partners at the Children's Advocacy Center. The Family Engagement Specialists are there to answer any questions you have so that you can get the expert help needed by your family.

*Please help us safeguard your children
and reschedule if your child is sick.*

YOUR TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS



The State Attorney/ Prosecutor:

The prosecutor leads the team and has the final decision as to whether charges will be filed. They hold depositions, prefile conferences and other meetings related to prosecution decisions. Many things affect the decision to file charges. These factors include age and maturity of the child, the child's ability to testify, whether or not the suspect has confessed, the presence of medical evidence, and whether or not there are other witnesses.

The Law Enforcement Officer:

Miami-Dade County has a number of different police departments, the largest are the Miami-Dade County Police Department and City of Miami Police Department, but many areas of Miami have their own departments including Miami-Dade County Public Schools. An officer from the department in your area will interview the children, non-offending parents, suspects, and other witnesses, and gather evidence from the scene of the alleged event.

The Victim Witness Counselor:

When there is a legal case involved, the Victim Witness Counselor is a professional in the State Attorney's office who coordinates the court preparation, helps victims and their families understand the legal process, and provides other valuable services to the victims and their families.



YOUR TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS



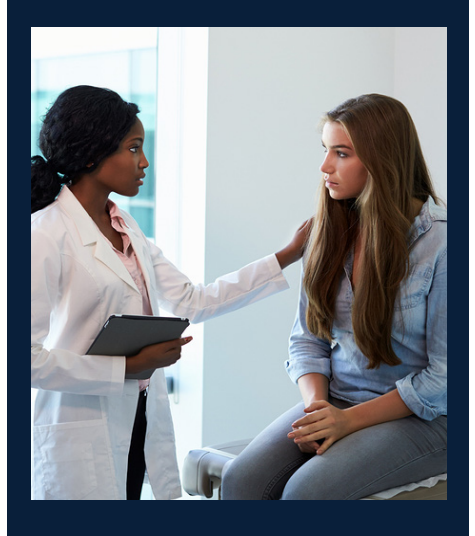
Guardian ad Litem:

A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is a specially trained volunteer that may be appointed by the court to represent your child during the legal process. The GAL will explain the legal proceedings to your child, and help you and your child in coping with the emotional effects of the crime and criminal proceedings.

A GAL may be present on behalf of your child during any proceedings, where they can make recommendations to the court, and may file motions for protective orders on behalf of your child.

The Department of Children and Families:

The role of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is to help protect your child. The Protective Investigator conducts interviews and develops safety plans. They might refer you and your child to counseling.



The Doctor:

Here at the Children's Advocacy Center we work closely with the University of Miami Child Protection Team to provide medical exams for children who have disclosed abuse. The exam for sexual abuse involves a regular check-up with magnification of the genitalia, done with an instrument called a culposcope.

Cultures may also be taken. This exam should not be traumatic or painful. Most children who experience sexual abuse have normal exams so the team does not rely on these examinations alone to prove abuse. The exams do allow the doctor to assure the child that his or her body is okay.

YOUR TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS



Family Advocate/Care Coordinator:

The Family Advocate, also known as the Care Coordinator, can act as the liaison for all other agencies housed at the center and other agencies that provide services within the community. The Family Advocate can refer children and their families to any services they might need including therapy. The Family Advocate will provide follow up to make sure the family is receiving services. He or she can help answer any questions you may have.

Therapist:

Mental health professionals or therapists who specialize in working with kids who may have been sexually abused are important members of the team. They will help the team decide how the abuse has affected the child and his/her family, and what can be done to assist them in recovering from the experience. Therapists at Kristi House use proven, effective methods to help children overcome what happened.



"In the beginning I was not believing or convinced that therapy would help my child. I was wrong. I have no words to express the gratitude that I feel. Thank you and God bless you all."

—A parent



What is Sexual Abuse?

Sexual abuse is...

- All sexual contact between an adult and a child.
- Child-on-child sexual contact can be abusive if there is a significant difference in age, development, or size.
- Sexual abuse involves a sexual activity with a child where consent is not or cannot be given.

Types of Sexual Abuse

Physical Contact

- Fondling or any kind of inappropriate touching.
- Rape or attempted rape.
- Using a child to create pornography.

Non-physical Behaviors

- Indecent exposure.
- Talk about sex designed to shock the child.
- Allowing the child to watch or hear sexual acts or materials.



STEPS ABUSERS TAKE TO SET UP CHILDREN



Most abusers are men, but women might also abuse children. Abusers come from all age groups, income levels and races. They often have a need for power and control. Sometimes abuse includes alcohol or drug use or other forms of domestic violence. Offenders use many tactics to gain access to children.

Seeking out children – Abusers usually pick children who are easy to get to (relatives, friends, and neighbors). They seek quiet children or children who have emotional needs for friendship and attention.

Establishing relationship with the child – Abusers often seek ways to build trust and friendship with children.

They may spend time playing with them, volunteer for babysitting, buy them candy or presents.

Breaking down the child's resistance to touch – Abusers may find ways to touch children a lot. They might play games with a lot of physical contact like wrestling or tickling.

Children are often confused when the touch becomes sexual.

Finding ways to isolate a child – Abusers find excuses to be alone with children.

Blaming or threatening the child to keep the secret – Abusers may say the following:

“You know you like the way I touch you.”

“If you tell, I might have to leave.”

“If you tell, no one will believe you.”

“You can’t tell our special secret.”

***Abusers come
from all
age groups,
income
levels and
races.***

Natural and Expected Sexual Behaviors For Elementary-Age Children



- Asks about the genitals, breasts, intercourse, babies.
- Interested in watching people in the bathroom.
- Uses “dirty” words for bathroom functions, genitals, and sex.
- Plays doctor, inspecting others’ bodies.
- Boys and girls are interested in having/birthing a baby.
- Shows others his/her genitals.
- Has interest in urination and defecation.
- Touches/rubs own genitals when going to sleep, when tense, excited or afraid.
- Plays house, may simulate all roles of mommy and daddy.
- Thinks children of the opposite sex are “gross” or have “cooties.” Chases them.
- Talks about sex with friends. Talks about having a girl/boy friend.
- Wants privacy when in bathroom or when dressing.
- Likes to hear or tell “dirty” jokes.
- Looks at nude pictures.

Serious Sexual Behaviors for which You Should Seek Professional Help

- Endless questions about sex. Sexual knowledge too great for age.
- Refuses to leave people alone in the bathroom.
- Continues use of “dirty” words even after exclusion from school and activities.
- Forces another child to play doctor, to take off clothes.
- Displays fear or anger about babies or intercourse.
- Refuses to put on clothes. Continually exposes self in public despite multiple reprimands for doing so.
- Repeatedly plays with or smears feces. Purposely urinates on self.
- Touches/rubs self in public or in private to the exclusion of normal childhood activities.
- Masturbates on people or on objects.
- Attempts intercourse with another child. Forces sex on other children. Acts out by humping naked.
- Uses bad language against another child's family.
- Hurts children of the opposite sex or younger children.
- Talks about sex and sexual acts a lot. Repeatedly in trouble in regard to sexual behavior.
- Aggressive or tearful in demand for privacy.





Other Trauma Treated at Kristi House

KRISTI HOUSE is here to help children and their families overcome traumatic events and avoid further suffering. We know what it takes to heal children, and do so every day.

We provide children and their families with proven, evidence-based mental health services which enable them to get past the trauma and go on with their lives. In most cases, children and youth who complete treatment with Kristi House are stronger than ever.

We specialize in relational trauma, meaning trauma that happens between people and within relationships. A traumatic event is a frightening, dangerous, or violent event that poses a threat to a child's life or bodily integrity. Witnessing a traumatic event that threatens life or physical security of a loved one can also be traumatic. This is particularly important for young children as their sense of safety depends on the perceived safety of their attachment figures.

One in two children will experience one or more childhood traumas, including :

- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Intimate Partner/
Domestic Violence
- Bullying
- Psychological Abuse
- Community Violence
- Natural Disaster
- Traumatic Loss
& Separation





Other Trauma Treated at Kristi House

SEXUAL ABUSE

Healing child trauma from sexual abuse, as described in the preceding pages, has been Kristi House's specialization since founding.

We also provide wraparound services for youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation (also known as child sex

trafficking) through our program, Project GOLD, which began in 2007.

Kristi House has provided services for nearly 30,000 victims of child sexual abuse, sexual assault and trafficking since 1995. In addition, we treat various other types of abuse as follows.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse is one of the most common forms of child maltreatment. Legal definitions vary from state to state, but broadly, physical abuse occurs when a parent or caregiver commits an act that results in physical injury to a child or adolescent, such as red marks, cuts, welts, bruises, muscle sprains, or broken bones, even if the injury was unintentional.

The impact of physical abuse on a child's life can be far-reaching. It is especially devastating when a parent—the person a child depends on for protection and safety—becomes a danger. As a result, the child or adolescent victims might:

- Not trust authority figures
- Suffer from low self-esteem and self-worth, self-blame
- Exhibit aggression and other behavioral problems

Some children show few, if any, reactions. They don't seem to care anymore if they are hit; they've lost the normal fight or flight reactions built-in to protect us from danger. These children may also fail to react to other dangers. This is what is termed, "learned helplessness."

Anxiety happens frequently when the abuse has no predictable pattern. A child who never knows when a caregiver will become physically violent, and never knows how far the caregiver will go, has no control.

- Struggle with developing and maintaining friendship



Other Trauma Treated at Kristi House

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This occurs when an individual purposely causes harm or threatens the risk of harm to any past or current partner or spouse. IPV/DV often occurs as a pattern of controlling and coercive behavior. Tactics used in IPV can be physical, sexual, financial, verbal, or emotional in nature against the partner. Individuals may also experience stalking, terrorizing, blame, hurt, humiliation, manipulation, and intentional isolation from social supports and family. IPV can vary in frequency and severity.

Children are often the hidden or silent victims of IPV, and some are directly injured, while others are frightened witnesses. A common misconception is that if a child did not directly witness the abuse, that they are not affected by exposure to IPV/DV. Despite children not directly witnessing IPV/DV, they are often aware of its occurrence through hearing fights, arguments and threats, witnessing subsequent injuries or the adult victim's emotional and behavioral reaction to an abusive episode, seeing broken or damaged items around the home, etc. As children's safety nets are their caregivers, when a caregiver's safety is at risk, children's sense of safety can become threatened. Children's reaction to exposure to IPV/DV is sim-

ilar to other trauma types, however, some differences include:

- Increased anxiety about being separated from a parent
- Intense worry about their safety or the safety of a parent
- Aggressive behaviors
- School avoidance and truancy to avoid being separated from their caregiver

In addition to these physical, behavioral, psychological, and cognitive effects, children who have been exposed to IPV often learn destructive lessons about the use of violence and power in relationships. Children may learn that it is acceptable to exert control or relieve stress by using violence, or that violence is in some way linked to expressions of intimacy and affection.

It is important that victims of IPV/DV seek guidance on safe ways to leave an abusive relationship. There are community supports to assist victims, including support with financial and basic needs that may result from the separation. It is also important that the caregiving victim of IPV/DV seeks mental health support to address their trauma as it can affect their mental health, physical health, and parenting behaviors.



Other Trauma Treated at Kristi House

BULLYING

Bullying is a deliberate and unsolicited action that occurs with the intent of inflicting social, emotional, physical, and/or psychological harm to someone who often is perceived as being less powerful.



PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

Psychological Abuse is a pattern of behavior in which the perpetrator insults, humiliates, and generally instills fear in an individual in order to control them. The individual's reality may become distorted as they internalize the abuse as their own failings. Emotional abuse and physical abuse sometimes co-occur, but not always. Emotional abuse, however, often precedes physical violence, which only begins after a perpetrator's emotional assault tactics fail to control a person's behavior.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

Community violence is exposure to intentional acts of interpersonal violence committed in public areas by individuals who are not intimately related to the victim. Common types of community violence that affect youth include individual and group conflicts (e.g., bullying, fights among gangs and other groups, shootings in public areas such as schools and communities, civil wars in foreign countries or "war-like" conditions in US cities, spontaneous or terrorist attacks).

Living with chronic community violence can be enough to rob children of their sense of safety, putting them into "survival mode," making them ready to gear up for fight or flight. Exposure to community violence can affect children's outlook on the future and their sense of control.

NATURAL DISASTER

Natural disasters include hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, wildfires, tsunamis, and floods, as well as extreme weather events such as blizzards, droughts, extreme heat, and wind storms. These events can lead to many adversities for children and families, including displacement, loss of home and personal property, changes in schools, economic hardship, loss of community and social supports, and even the injury and death of loved ones.



Other Trauma Treated at Kristi House

TRAUMATIC LOSS AND SEPARATION

Chronic separation from or the death of a caregiver can be extremely overwhelming to a child. Depending on the circumstances and their significance, the child can experience these separations as traumatic. They may be sudden, unexpected, and prolonged, and can be accompanied by addi-

tional cumulative stressful events.

Situations in which a potentially traumatic separation from the caregiver can occur include: parental incarceration, immigration, parental deportation, parental military deployment, and termination of parental rights.

CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS

Children who suffer from child traumatic stress are those who have been exposed to one or more traumas over the course of their lives and develop reactions that persist and affect their daily lives after the events have ended. Traumatic reactions can include a variety of responses, such as:

- Intense and ongoing emotional upset, depressive symptoms or anxiety
- Behavioral changes, difficulties with self-regulation, and behavioral problems
- Problems relating to others or forming attachments
- Regression or loss of previously acquired skills
- Attention and academic difficulties
- Nightmares, intrusive memories about the trauma
- Difficulty sleeping and eating
- Physical symptoms, such as aches and pains
- Older children may use drugs or alcohol, behave in risky ways, or engage in unhealthy sexual activity, and/or engage in self-harming behaviors, such as cutting.

Without treatment, repeated childhood exposure to traumatic events can affect the brain and nervous system and increase health-risk behaviors (e.g., smoking, eating disorders, substance use, and high-risk activities). Research shows that child trauma survivors can be more likely to have long-term health problems (e.g., diabetes and heart disease) or to die at an earlier age without treatment. Adult survivors of traumatic events may also have difficulty in establishing fulfilling relationships and maintaining employment. Bottom line: Don't let child traumatic stress go untreated! Kristi House is here to help.





Children almost never tell about abuse to create a problem. More often, they fear that telling will make people angry at them. It is extremely difficult for most children to report abuse.

Some things you can say:

- I believe you.
- It's not your fault.
- I am sorry this happened to you.
- It has happened to other children, too.
- I am upset, but not with you.
- I am glad you told.
- I am angry with the person who did this.
- I will take care of you.
- I am not sure what will happen next.
- You don't need to take care of me.
- You may see me cry because I am sad, but that's okay.
- I don't know why the person did this.
- You can still love someone but hate what they do.



Helping Your Child

Some things you can do:

- Return to a normal routine as soon as possible.
- See that your child receives therapy. The problems the abuse causes for you and your child will not go away by ignoring them.
- Find help for yourself. You don't have to do it alone.
- Teach your child rules of personal safety. When they feel uncomfortable with anyone they should...

Speak up.
Leave the situation.
Tell a trusted adult.

- Be careful not to question your child too much. If your child wants to talk about it, listen supportively, but do not push.
- Keep your child away from the person suspected of abuse. Never leave your child alone with the person.
- Avoid discussing the case with other victims or their families.
- Never coach your child on what to say or how to act.
- Encourage them to tell the truth.
- Remember to give attention to your other children.

The single most important factor affecting your child's recovery is the level of support that you give them.



How are You Feeling?

When abuse is reported, parents may feel many different emotions. The report may affect your life in many ways. Below are some thoughts and feelings parents may have when they learn about their child's abuse.

Denial.

When a child is abused by someone the parent loves or trusts, the first reaction may be to not believe that the abuse happened. A parent may not accept or may believe no real harm was done. Parents should know that children rarely make up stories about abuse.

Anger.

At times parents feel angry at themselves for not protecting their child. They may feel angry at the person who abused their child. They may even feel angry at their child. Parents need to share their feelings with a trusted family member, friend, or professional counselor.

Helplessness.

Parents often feel like things are out of their control. Some parents may fear that their children will be taken away. It is important to work with professionals at the center and let them know your concerns.





How are You Feeling?

Shock & Repulsion.

Parents who have a history of abuse in their own lives often have strong negative feelings when similar things happen to their own children. Parents may need to work with a therapist to overcome strong emotional reactions to abuse.

Guilt.

Parents may feel it is all their fault but the offender is responsible for the abuse, not you. The best thing you can do is support your child and learn how to make things better.





Taking Care of Yourself

You are going through a very difficult time, and you probably feel pressured from many directions. Although you are trying to take care of a lot of other people, you also need to take care of yourself. Your wellbeing is very important. You need to find time to do something just for you and plan to do it regularly. This may be difficult to do, but it is in the best interest of you and your child.

Scheduling your own time and space will help you gain a sense of control. Take the time to take care of yourself.

- Decide what you would like to do.
- Schedule time for yourself.
- Write down the time and place.
- Tell anyone who needs to know where you are going and when you will be back.
- Take care of details, such as child care and transportation.
- Enjoy yourself.



Some suggested activities: Take a walk, have lunch with a friend, go to the movies, or join an exercise class. Most importantly, join a support group. Talking to other parents can really help you feel less alone.

FACTS ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION AND LEGAL SYSTEM



Here at Kristi House Children's Advocacy Center, there are some things being done to improve the legal system's response to child abuse.

At times, you might be asked to wait while your child is being questioned. Being left out of some of the proceedings can make you feel as if you are not very important. In fact, you may be the key to understanding what has happened. However, in your presence, your child may be unwilling to tell important details because he or she does not want to upset you. Most interviewers will take the time to make sure your child is comfortable without you. They will let the child know where you will be and that you will be available if necessary. They will also speak with you after the child's interview is completed.

The legal process often moves slowly. Various proceedings can take place over a period of months or years. The court date may be delayed over and over again, and you will have no control over this. It is best to try to work with the team to gain the best outcome for you and your child. The legal system was not designed with the needs of children in mind.

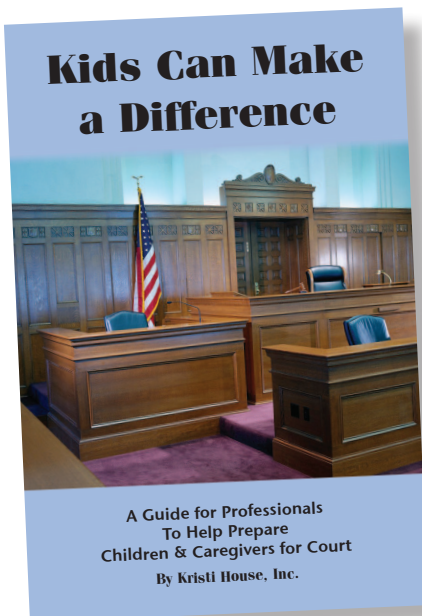


FACTS ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION AND LEGAL SYSTEM



The rights of the child-victim are far less defined than the rights of the alleged perpetrator. Here at the Center, there are some things being done to improve the legal system's response to child abuse.

- **Professionals are trained on issues of child abuse.**
- **The number of times a child needs to tell about the abuse is being reduced.**
- **Agencies involved are coordinating their services.**
- **Children and families can receive therapy and counseling services during the legal process.**
- **A Guardian ad Litem may be assigned to represent the best interest of the child.**



Kristi House created this guidebook and video to help prepare children and their caregivers for court. The video, available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole, provides an overview of the various professionals at court and their role in the proceedings.



Here are some basic tips for working with professionals in the system.

- **Be calm and reassuring** to your child. Don't coach your child on what to say. It is important for the story to come out in your child's words and in the child's own time.
- When you are asked for information, try to **provide as many facts as you can**. Cases are built on the four W's: who, what, when and where. Don't guess if you don't know the answer to a question.
- Feelings are valuable in giving investigators insight, so **tell how you feel** and why you feel that way.
- **Always be honest**, even though the truth may not seem favorable to yourself or to your child. In the long run, you will be much better off.
- **Try not to overreact**. It is a difficult time and emotions are running high. Losing control can hurt the case and overshadow the needs your child.
- **Love, support and protect your child** above all else. If the alleged offender is a significant person to you, it can be very difficult to balance your feelings for him or her with the need to protect your child. Remember that your child has only you to make healthy, protective decisions.
- **Cooperate**. You may feel that the investigators are prying into your personal life, but this is necessary and vital to the case and to your child's welfare. The sooner the facts come out, the sooner the case can be resolved and you can return to a normal life.



It is best to be honest and direct with your child.

How much you explain depends on your child's age and what he or she can understand. The most important thing is to let the child know that you are proud of him or her for being brave.

When the case is completed, you may feel let down or have a period of depression. It happens to most parents, even if the outcome is a positive experience. If your child hears you express disappointment in the outcome, your child may think you are disappointed in him or her.

Instead, find a supportive friend with whom you can share your feelings and frustration.

Remember, you have done your best in trying to prevent further abuse and hold the offender responsible for what he or she did. Even if the case was dropped, this is a major accomplishment.





What to Say to Others

One challenge your family will face will be what to say to others about the abuse.

Your child might feel embarrassed and responsible. If there is no publicity or public awareness, you can decide whom you will tell. Let your child know with which relatives or friends you will be discussing it, and let your child have some choice about who is told.



Sometimes you are not the first person to learn of the abuse. You might feel hurt that someone knew before you. However, understand that your child may have been trying to protect your feelings by telling someone else. Your child might have felt that person could tell you in a less upsetting way.

If you are especially close to your family, you will probably want to talk with them about your child's abuse and how it has affected the family. It is important to keep in mind how these relatives usually react to stressful situations. If you know they will react in a negative way, you may not want to share the information with them unless it becomes necessary. It is important to maintain your child's sense of privacy. On the other hand, be careful not to make it into a shameful secret. Remember your child did nothing wrong.



LOCATIONS

Most services begin at the main Kristi House Children's Advocacy Center location where agency partners are co-located. Thereafter, neighborhood locations are available for appointments with our Therapists and Family Advocates.

Kristi House Main Office
1265 NW 12th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33136
(305) 547-6800

Project GOLD Drop-In Center
(Child commercial sexual exploitation program)
305-547-6850

Miami Gardens
111 NW 183 Street
Suite 304
Miami Gardens, FL 33169
305-547-6870

Palmetto Bay
8925 SW 148 Street
Suite 213
Miami, FL 33176
305-547-6890

Homestead
Campbell Shoppes
2008 NE 8 Street
Homestead, FL 33033
305-547-6810

KRISTIHOUSE.ORG

In Florida, any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, neglected, or abandoned by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare shall immediately report such knowledge or suspicion to the Abuse Hotline of the Florida Department of Children and Families.

1.800.96ABUSE • ReportAbuse@dcf.state.fl.us

Our Pledge to Families: All Kristi House services are 100% free of charge to children and families, made possible by generous donors and these entities that provide grant support for our programs and services:

