

Brother Martin High School
Prevention of Abuse and Harassment – Student Education Program

Signs of Possible Abuse/Where to go for Help

Signs of Possible Abuse

- bruises, welts, broken bones, cuts and scrapes, burns
- missing hair
- injuries at different stages of healing
- injury or medical condition that hasn't been properly treated
- poor grooming or personal hygiene
- refusal to shower after sports or PE
- students thrown out of the house or left at school late into the evening
- students left at home for long periods without adult supervision
- talk of involvement in child pornography or sexual contact with an adult
- constant attacks at self-worth: excessive criticism, belittling or insulting language
- not seeking professional counseling when necessary

Signs of Possible Harassment

- alcohol or drug use
- sudden changes in behavior or mood swings
- chronic absenteeism
- fighting or uncharacteristic aggression

Where to go for Help

1. You should go to a trusted adult to report any kind of abuse or harassment. At school, your guidance counselor is a good choice for receiving help. Outside of school a parent is a good choice for help.
2. Louisiana has a mandatory reporting law for abuse. This means that people in certain professions must report child abuse. Mandatory reporters include: teachers, counselors, police officers, doctors and dentists, psychiatrists and psychologists, and commercial film processors.
3. Whoever you may go to at school to report abuse, that person will contact your guidance counselor who will speak to you about it. Your counselor will then take the appropriate steps including reporting it to the proper agency. As long as you are making a report in good faith, both you and the reporter are protected under the law. Generally, a reporter is in good faith as long as they do not make a report which they know, or have good reason to believe, is false.
4. In the case of harassment, you should go to a parent or trusted adult at school so that the problem can be addressed.
5. If you or someone you know is ever involved in sexual assault, get help immediately. Both the victim and the offender will need professional help.
6. If a friend tells you that he or she has been abused in the past, be supportive and affirming but do not try to counsel your friend alone. The problem is too big for you to handle. Encourage your friend to get professional help; if you can, take the person to a mandatory reporter yourself.

(Note: Numbers 5. and 6. were excerpted from Sex and the Teenage: Choices and Decisions by Keiran Sawyer, SSND

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To Report Any and All Child Abuse—Call Police at 911 or one of the following:

Child Abuse Line—Louisiana Council on Child Abuse
1 (800) 348-5437 (KIDS)

Orleans Parish (24 hours)
(504) 680-9000

Jefferson Parish
(504) 736-7033

St. Charles Parish/St. John the Baptist/St. James Parishes (7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
(985) 652-2938

St. Tammany Parish
(985) 893-6225
(985) 893-6324 (fax)

Plaquemines Parish (After 4:30 p.m. call local Sheriff's Office)
(504) 393-5618 extension 142 or (504) 393-4001
Sheriff's Office
(985) 564-2525

To Report Clergy Abuse of a Child

Archdiocese of New Orleans Abuse Hotline
(504) 522-5019

Note: If a priest or deacon is the abuser, it is important to call the civil parish authorities and the Archdiocese of New Orleans

Legally Mandated Reporters of Suspicion of Child Abuse or Neglect:

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| 1. Police Officer | 14. Medical Technicians |
| 2. Physician | 15. Paramedic |
| 3. Surgeon | 16. Optometrist |
| 4. Physical Therapist | 17. Medical Examiner |
| 5. Dentist | 18. Coroner |
| 6. Resident (medical) | 19. Psychiatrist |
| 7. Intern (medical) | 20. Psychologist |
| 8. Hospital Staff Member | 21. Marriage/Family Counselor |
| 9. Chiropractor | 22. Social Worker/Aide |
| 10. Licensed Nurse | 23. Commercial Film Processor |
| 11. Nursing Aids | 24. Clergy |
| 12. Dental Hygienist | 25. Teacher |
| 13. Emergency Responders | |