HOW TO REPORT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

If you have been sexually abused or you know a child that is or has been sexually abused report the abuse to:

Department of Child and Family Services
Kids line: 278-9111
(9:00am - 5:00pm) or 294-5882

After Hours: 295-0011
(This is the Police Service - they will contact a social worker from Child & Family Services)

OR

Bermuda Police Service
Serious Crime and Vulnerable Persons Unit
Telephone: 211or 295-0011

Cyber Crime
800-8477

SCARS

P.O. Box HM 3003
Hamilton HM MX

Bermuda

Tel (441) 297-2277
Email: Info@scars.bm

www.facebook.com/SCARSBDA

www.scarsbermuda.com

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Do the right thing.
Break the Silence!

SCARS®
SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

FACTS

- Protecting and loving children is an adult's responsibility
- Start early and talk often about body safety with your child
- The affection a child gives to another person should always be their choice
- The role a person plays in a family or community does not necessarily make a child safe
- Teach children the correct names for their body parts
- Unmonitored internet access creates a major risk to your child
- Sexually abusing a child is a crime
- Child molesters groom victims and their families
- Child molesters are controlling, manipulative and seduce their victims
- Child molesters choose to set children up through secrecy and fear
- Child molesters look and act like everyone else
- Child molesters can be well-liked, respected, and the best at what they do
- Most child molesters deny their actions or minimize the seriousness
- Children may be confused because the lines between right and wrong are blurred. They may lack knowledge about their bodies and personal boundaries. They may be too young to understand the behavior is inappropriate, harmful or wrong
- Many times children won't reveal about the sexual abuse they suffered until they become an adult themselves.
- Children don't' reveal because of fear of being blamed or not believed
- Child molesters use tricks, bribes, and threats to keep children from telling
- For many child molesters it is not always about the act itself; it's about how it makes them feel - powerful

OUR MISSION

To reduce the risk of child sexual abuse and to be an advocate and voice for children who have been sexually molested as well as their affected family.

WHAT WE DO

We are a Bermuda registered charity formed to create greater awareness of the devastation of child sexual abuse by offering prevention training, awareness and resources for healing.

Darkness to Light (D2L.ORG) Stewards of Children certified prevention training is an award winning, evidence-informed prevention training program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for organizations that serve youth, entrusted with the care of children, and for individuals concerned about the safety of children. (3 hours required)

PREVENT NOW Community Awareness Presentation is an opportunity for SCARS to share information with the community in a short, concise and highly powerful method. It has been effective in raising awareness and increasing participation in our Stewards of Children training program.
(1 hour required)

Child Advocate Representative Services (CARS) is a pro-bono Service that provides a personal lawyer to a child that has been sexually abused/assaulted and their affected family to help them navigate the complex journey of the legal system. Once the crime has been reported, our Child Advocate Representative will provide highly skilled and compassionate legal advocacy, advice, guidance and emotional support to the victim and their

WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

Any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors, when one exerts power over the other. Forcing, coercing or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act. It also includes non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or Internet.

Child Sexual Abuse is a crime!

Learning the facts about child sexual abuse helps prevent it. Talking about helps prevent it. Getting involved helps prevent it. These are some of the founding principles of SCARS. The truth is, if child sexual abuse can be recognized, it can be stopped. That is why SCARS exists – to empower adults through awareness and educational programs; to recognize, prevent and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

STATISTICS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

It is difficult in Bermuda to obtain statistics, but what is known has been captured by a community survey, where 1 in 3 adults indicated experiencing child sexual abuse. Some research in the United States has shown:

- 1 in 4 girls will be sexually abused by their 18th birthday
- 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused by their 18th birthday
- 9 years old is the median age when children are sexually abused
- 90% of children who are victims of child sexual abuse know their abuser
- 30% of children who are sexually abused are abused by family members
- 60% of children who are sexually abused are abused by people the family trusts
- 40% of children who are sexually abused are abused by older, or more powerful children
- 25% of child molesters are women
- 10% or less of children who are sexually abused are abused by a stranger