

Sexual Abuse Prevention Parent Information Night

Franklin Regional Senior High School
January 17, 2013



United Way of
Westmoreland County
unitedway4u.org



Tonight's Objectives

- To provide an awareness of Blackburn Center and its mission
- To provide an overview of the programs currently presented to Franklin Regional High School students
- To develop an understanding of current sexual assault laws and the concept of consent
- To define child sexual abuse and discuss possible signs of child sexual abuse
- To provide an overview of the grooming process
- To discuss potential prevention strategies



Mission

Blackburn Center actively advocates for the rights of all people to live free from violence and oppression in their homes and communities and provides supportive services to survivors of all forms of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Blackburn Center Services

- Hotline – **24 hrs – 1-888-832-2272**
- Shelter
- Counseling
- Support groups
- Medical Advocacy/Accompaniment
- Legal Advocacy/Accompaniment
- Community Education Programs
- Student Awareness Programs
- In-Service Trainings for professionals

All services are free and confidential.

Blackburn Center Programs Presented at Franklin Regional HS

Currently a 3 day session is done each semester in health classes. The session covers:

- Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Assault
- Dating Violence

Sexual Assault Laws

- **It is illegal** to force someone into sexual contact.
- **It is illegal** to threaten or coerce someone in order to engage in sexual contact with them.
- **It is illegal** to have sexual contact with someone who is unconscious, or who is unaware that sexual contact is occurring.
- **It is illegal** to have sexual contact with someone who does not have the power to give consent. This includes someone who has a mental disability or is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Sexual Assault Laws (cont'd)

- **It is illegal** to administer drugs to a person without their knowledge in order to engage in sexual contact.
- **It is illegal** to take, distribute, or possess photographs of persons under 18 engaging in sexual acts or simulated sexual acts.
- **It is illegal** to have sexual contact with a person who is under 13 years old.
- **It is illegal** to have sexual contact with a person who is under 16 years old if you are four or more years older than her/him.

Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation

- Any sexual contact between a child and an adult or older child that results in sexual stimulation and gratification for the older person.
- It can include: rape; incest; sodomy; sexual touching or fondling the child's genitals; exposing the child to adult sexual activity; exposing the child to adult movies and photographs; sexualized talk; having the child pose, undress, or perform in a sexual nature; and forced prostitution.

Signs of Child Sexual Abuse

- Increase in physical complaints
- Depression or withdrawal
- Nightmares or other sleep disturbances
- Regression to infantile behavior
- Abnormal interest in sex or knowledge inappropriate to the child's age
- Frequent genital or urinary tract infections or irritations
- Excessive masturbation
- Self-injury

Signs in Older Children

- Suicide attempts
- School or discipline problems
- Eating disorders
- Low self-esteem
- Drug/alcohol abuse
- Running away
- Inadequate personal hygiene
- Fear of intimacy
- New items or access to money

Psychological Effects of Child Sexual Abuse

- Victims don't trust themselves or their perceptions
- They don't trust others.
- They have trouble dealing with their emotions.
- They may experience symptoms of PTSD including:
 - Images, flashbacks, nightmares, other sleep disturbances
 - Dissociation behavior; numbing, agitated or disorganized behavior

What is a Pedophile?

- A person for whom the fantasy or actual act of engaging in sexual activity with a minor is the preferred means of achieving sexual excitement and gratification.
- Pedophilia is a psychological disorder. To be diagnosed a person must have repeated urges to be sexually involved with a child and fantasize to the point where relationships with adults or normal functioning in society is not possible.
- Acting on the fantasies or urges at any level is a crime.

Grooming Behavior

- Victim Selection and Identification
- Background and Information Checking
- Filling a Need
- Lowering Inhibitions
- Abuse Initiation

Prevention Strategies

- Educate yourself and your child on sexual abuse and assault
- Maintain open, positive & supportive communication with your child
- Model and teach about healthy relationships and boundaries
- Help your child identify a support system
- Monitor your child's use of technology and educate both them and yourself on the potential dangers



**Thank you
for your time
and attention!**

**24 – Hour Hotline
724-836-1122
1-888-832-2272
Office: 724-837-9540**