

Child Sexual Abuse is a CRIME!

✓ **The age of consent in the District of Columbia is 16.** Any person who has sex with a child under sixteen years old, who is more than four years older than the child, is committing child sexual abuse.

- ✓ **It is still a crime if:**
- the child agrees to have sex,
 - the age of the child is unknown,
 - the child is already sexually active,
 - the parents have no objections, or
 - the victim is female or male.

✓ **Punishment for child sexual abuse** can range from 5 years to LIFE imprisonment, and/or fines from \$50,000 to \$250,000.

To report a suspected case of child sexual abuse contact:

**CHILD and FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY
(202) 671-SAFE (7233)**

**Know the Facts About Child Sexual Abuse Laws
(also known as Statutory Rape)**

Child Sex Abuse Prevention Coalition:

DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc.

DC Action for Children

Unity Health Care, Inc.

Covenant House Washington

Columbia Heights/Shaw Neighborhood Collaborative

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Answers to Important Questions When Working With Young Teens

If I am working with a young person under the age of 16 and he/she tells me that he/she is in a sexual relationship with a person who is more than four years older, is it my responsibility to report?

Yes, you are required to report suspected child sexual abuse if you are a physician, psychologist, medical examiner, dentist, social worker, nurse, social service worker, school official, teacher, counselor, law-enforcement officer or administrator working with a young person.

(DC Law § 2-1352)

Know your agency's protocol.

How do I make a report?

In the District of Columbia, you can report all suspected child sexual abuse to **202-671-SAFE (7233)**. You do not have to give your name.

Am I required to investigate?

No, the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) and the Metropolitan Police Department will handle the investigation and follow-up. All cases are forwarded to the US Attorney's Office for prosecution, if deemed appropriate.

If I report an incident of suspected child sexual abuse, what do I need to provide?

You need to provide all available information. If possible, the report should include, but not be limited to the following:

- (1) the name, age, sex, and address of the:
 - (a) the child who is the subject of the report;
 - (b) each of the child's siblings;
 - (c) the parents or other persons responsible for the child's care; and
 - (d) the identity of the person responsible for the abuse.
- (2) the nature and extent of the abuse, if known; and
- (3) any other information that may be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse.

(DC Law § 2-1352)

Can I be liable if I do not make a report?

Yes, if you are required to report child sex abuse and do not, you can be fined not more than \$100 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days or both. Violations will be prosecuted by the Office of the Corporation Counsel of the District of Columbia or his or her agent in the name of the District of Columbia.

(DC Law § 2-1357)