



IF YOU SUSPECT SEXUAL ABUSE WHAT PARENTS AND GUARDIANS SHOULD DO

- Ask your child the question “Has anyone ever touched you inappropriately or asked you to touch them inappropriately” Be prepared for an instant “NO” but be persistent but not coercive
- You must let your child know that you will always **love them, believe them** and **protect them**
- Let your child know that you will not judge and/or ridicule them because they revealed the secret

Parents must be prepared for the answer, as the abuser could be a relative, friend, or any other person they trust – you may have to break up a family to save your child.

- Praise the child for having the courage to reveal the devastating secret
- Immediately remove the child from the situation to ensure sexual abuse does not reoccur
- **You must let your child know that it wasn’t their fault and that they did nothing to cause it.**
- Once the child has confirmed that they have been sexually abused, IT MUST BE REPORTED
- You MUST get your child help – Psychological Counseling is critical
- Don’t try to pretend it never happened. A parent’s denial of Child Sexual Abuse can be more abusive than the abuser.

It is recommended that parents and or guardians seek professional and/or spiritual help for themselves.