

**Round Top-Carmine Independent School District
Plan for Addressing Sexual Abuse of Children**

as Required by HB 1041

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IA. Methods for increasing awareness regarding sexual abuse of children for teachers:

Teachers will be trained annually in all content areas addressed in the *Round Top-Carmine ISD Plan for Addressing Sexual Abuse of Children*. Training may be provided through campus staff, district staff or outside agencies as appropriate at the discretion of campus administration. Training will include contents of the adopted board policy FFG (LEGAL) and pertinent FFG exhibits.

IB. Methods for increasing awareness regarding sexual abuse of children for students:

District staff will address issues to increase awareness regarding sexual abuse of children and antivictimization programs with age appropriate conversations and materials once a year in group lessons in grades Pre-K through 6. Awareness regarding sexual abuse of children will be addressed with students in grades 7-12 through health and PE classes no less than once per year.

IC. Methods for increasing awareness regarding sexual abuse of children for parents:

Information concerning the district Plan for Addressing Sexual Abuse of Children will be posted on the district website, and will be announced at Round Top-Carmine ISD Parents' Club meetings. The following information will be included in the *RT-C Parent Student Handbook* which is made available both in printed format and online at the district website:

The district has established a plan for addressing child sexual abuse, which may be accessed at <http://www.rtcisd.net/education/school/school.php?sectionid=2> . As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to Child Protective Services (CPS).

Possible physical warning signs of sexual abuse could be difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches. Behavioral indicators may include verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior. Emotional warning signs to be aware of include withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school.

A child who has experiences sexual abuse should be encouraged to seek out a trusted adult. Be aware as a parent or other trusted adult that disclosures of sexual abuse may be more indirect than disclosures of physical abuse, and it is important to be calm and comforting if your child, or another child, confides in you. Reassure the child that he or she did the right thing by telling you.

As a parent, if your child is a victim of sexual abuse, the campus principal will provide information regarding counseling options for you and your child available in your area. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) also manage early intervention counseling programs. To find out what services may be available in your county, see

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Programs_Available_In_Your_County/default.asp.

The following web sites might help you become more aware of child sexual abuse:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index.aspx?id=2820>

<http://savn.nonprofitoffice.com/>

<http://www.taasa.org/member/materials2.php>

http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse1.shtml

http://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/txts/childabuse2.shtml

Reports may be made to:

The Child Protective Services (CPS) division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (1-800-252-5400) or on the web at <http://www.txabusehotline.org>.

You are responsible for your child's safety

If you permit your child to be in a situation where he or she may be injured, then you may be prosecuted for child abuse. The fact that the abuser is a parent or other family member does not remove your obligation to protect the child.

If you are frightened for your own safety or that of your child, call 911 or 1-800-252-5400.

You are legally responsible for the care of your child. You must provide your child with safe and adequate food, shelter, protection, medical care and supervision, or else you must arrange for someone else to provide these things. Failure to do so may be considered neglect.

II. Likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse, using resources developed by the agency under Section 38.004

Texas Education Agency resources under this section can be found at the following links: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index.aspx?id=2820> and <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing>

Possible Psychological and Behavioral Signs of Sexual Child Abuse:

- Changes in sleeping patterns
- Bedwetting
- Nightmares or bad dreams
- Depression, irritability, or anger
- Low self-esteem, guilt, shame
- Avoidance of people or places
- Sexual advances or “touching” inappropriately
- Sexual drawings
- Changes in socialization (social withdrawal or social isolation)

Possible Physical Symptoms

- Pregnancy
- Venereal Disease
- Trauma to the mouth or genitals
- Rectal bleeding
- Pain around the genital area
- Poor appetite

- Weight loss or weight gain

Warning Signs in Children and Adolescents of Possible Child Sexual Abuse

Any one sign doesn't mean that a child was sexually abused, but the presence of several suggests that you begin asking questions and consider seeking help. Keep in mind that some of these signs can emerge at other times of stress such as:

- During a divorce
- Death of a family member or pet
- Problems at school or with friends
- Other anxiety-inducing or traumatic events

Behavior you may see in a child or adolescent

- Has nightmares or other sleep problems without an explanation
- Seems distracted or distant at odd times
- Has a sudden change in eating habits
- Refuses to eat
- Loses or drastically increases appetite
- Has trouble swallowing
- Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, insecurity or withdrawal
- Leaves "clues" that seem likely to provoke a discussion about sexual issues
- Writes, draws, plays or dreams of sexual or frightening images
- Develops new or unusual fear of certain people or places
- Refuses to talk about a secret shared with an adult or older child
- Talks about a new older friend
- Suddenly has money, toys or other gifts without reason
- Thinks of self or boy as repulsive, dirty or bad
- Exhibits adult-like sexual behaviors, language and knowledge

Signs more typical of younger children

- An older child behaving like a younger child (such as bed-wetting or thumb sucking)
- Has new words for private body parts
- Resists removing clothes when appropriate times (bath, bed, toileting, diapering)
- Asks other children to behave sexually or play sexual games
- Mimics adult-like sexual behaviors with toy or stuffed animal
- Wetting and soiling accidents unrelated to toilet training

Signs more typical in adolescents

- Self-injury (cutting, burning)
- Inadequate personal hygiene
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Sexual promiscuity

- Running away from home
- Depression, anxiety
- Suicide attempts
- Fear or intimacy or closeness
- Compulsive eating or dieting

Physical Warning signs

Physical signs of sexual abuse are rare. If you see these signs, bring your child to a doctor. Your doctor can help you understand what may be happening and test for sexually transmitted diseases.

- ❖ Pain, discoloration, bleeding or discharges in genitals, anus or mouth
- ❖ Persistent or recurring pain during urination and bowel movements
- ❖ Wetting and soiling accidents unrelated to toilet training

Suspect physical abuse when you see...

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes or burns, especially when the child cannot adequately explain their causes
- Burns or bruises in an unusual pattern that may indicate the use of an instrument or a human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body
- Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury
- Aggressive, disruptive and destructive behavior
- Lack of reaction to pain
- Passive, withdrawn, emotionless behavior
- Fear of going home or seeing parents
- Injuries that appear after the child has not been seen for several days
- Unseasonable clothes that may hide injuries to arms or legs

Suspect neglect when you see...

- Obvious malnourishment
- Lack of personal cleanliness
- Torn and/or dirty clothes
- Obvious fatigue and listlessness
- A child unattended for long periods of time
- Need for glasses, dental care or other medical attention
- Stealing or begging for food
- Frequent absence or tardiness from school

III. Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse should take to obtain assistance

In student awareness sessions concerning sexual abuse issues referenced in section I.B. of this plan, students will be encouraged to tell a trusted adult in a private and confidential

conversation if they have been a victim of sexual abuse or have been in situations which make them feel uncomfortable in any way. Adults will be trained as addressed in section I.C. of this plan to take appropriate actions to help the child obtain assistance and to follow proper reporting procedures. Older students will also be provided with local crises hotline numbers to obtain assistance.

IV. Available counseling options for students affected by sexual abuse

The Children's Advocacy Center
1002 Chestnut
Bastrop, Texas 78602

Toll Free: 1-866-88CHILD
Local: 1-512-321-6161



Children's Advocacy Centers™ of Texas, Inc.
Breaking the cycle of abuse one child at a time.

Family Crisis Counseling Center
Executive Director
PO Box 736
Bastrop, Texas 78602

1-888-311-7755
512-303-7755

