



INTERVIEW TALKING POINTS / FAQs

How does Stop It Now! Georgia prevent child sexual abuse?

Response: We give adults the information to understand the conditions that allow child sexual abuse to exist, understand healthy sexual behaviors in adults and children and recognize behaviors that may leave children vulnerable to abuse. We then give adults the tools and resources they need to intervene before a child is harmed. Our website (www.stopitnowga.org) and toll free HELPLINE (1-800-CHILDREN) gives adults a place to go for support and guidance if they have questions or concerns about sexual behavior they may be observing in their own or someone else's children or in themselves or another adult.

What's unique about Stop It Now! Georgia?

Response: Stop It Now! Georgia asks adults to be responsible for preventing child sexual abuse before a child is harmed. We teach adults to understand and encourage healthy sexual development in children and to recognize potential sexual behavior problems and take action before it's too late. We are asking adults to speak up so children don't have to.

What should adults be watching for?

Response: There is no such thing as a foolproof way to tell who will abuse a child. We do know from our work with offenders there are behaviors that can lead to abuse. These might include: refusing to let a child set personal boundaries and limits, an unusual interest in much younger children, insisting on touching, tickling, or kissing a child even when the child doesn't want this attention, an interest in child pornography, even having been abused themselves. Often adults have a gut feeling about someone's behavior around children but they're afraid to say anything in case they're wrong. When adults call the 1-800-CHILDREN HELPLINE, trained staff and volunteers talk through their concerns and help them figure out what they can do to keep children safe.

People interested in learning more can go to our website, or call our office to request educational brochures at 1-800-CHILDREN or www.stopitnowga.org.

Is there a "typical" profile of someone we should be concerned about?

Response: There's no such thing as a "typical" profile. Most people know the majority of child sexual abuse occurs between a child and adult or other child/youth who know each other. But making the leap from knowing that to believing that your son, husband, sister, father, or babysitter could be hurting a child is really difficult. The media often portrays abusers as "monsters" or strangers in trench coats hanging around playgrounds. That image makes it harder to believe someone you know and love could be hurting a child. So, too often we wait until a child has been abused before acting on our concerns. Stop It Now! Georgia is asking adults to



Stop It Now! Georgia

The Campaign to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

a program of  Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

trust their gut feelings and speak up so children don't have to. That's why our Helpline is so valuable.

What happens when you call the 1-800-CHILDREN HELPLINE?

Response: A typical scenario might go like this:

A caller may know both the possible victim and the adult or child/youth they're concerned about. The HELPLINE Associate will talk through this person's concerns and help the caller figure out what action to take. Actions can range from role playing how to talk with the adult about your concerns, documenting things you see and hear, taking steps to insure the child is safe, or reporting your concerns to authorities. The HELPLINE staff work with the caller's comfort level in encouraging them to take actions to keep the child safe.

Other callers are adults concerned about an adult, their own child's or someone else's sexual feelings or behaviors. Here, the HELPLINE staff will refer callers to treatment providers who specialize in treating adults and youth with sexual behavior concerns. And they help the caller take steps to keep children safe.

Tell us a little bit about treatment.

Response: Treatment is tailored to the individual and focuses on behavior change. It's a multi step process that helps the client understand their behavior and recognize what puts them at risk. Treatment also helps the client understand the harm they caused and how to develop relationships that will keep them from harming again.

And treatment works. We know from multiple research studies that treatment significantly reduces an individual's risk for repeating abusive behaviors.

What do you want people to remember about Stop It Now! Georgia?

Response: When adults know how to promote healthy sexual development, what behaviors indicate a need for intervention, and how to talk about it, we can prevent child sexual abuse before a child is harmed. Child sexual abuse is not inevitable – it's preventable.