

Abuse is a Crime... Tell someone now!

How do I do this? Who do I tell?

Report the abuse to staff or an adult you trust (counselor, nurse, teacher, family member, etc.)

CALL PREA HOTLINE NUMBER DIAL *77

Richmond Department of Social Services

900 East Marshall Street
Suite 319
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 646-0438

If you have been sexually assaulted, report the abuse IMMEDIATELY. Do not shower, brush your teeth, or use the restroom. The longer a victim waits, the harder it is to get evidence.

When you call, you will be asked to tell exactly what happened to you in the facility. Your call will be kept CONFIDENTIAL however, please be advised this number is to be used for reporting sexual assault/abuse and sexual misconduct ONLY.

RJDC has a zero tolerance for all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. It is also RJDC's priority to prevent, detect and respond to such conduct through policy, procedure, training, and practice.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

Q. If I report abuse, will anyone believe me?

Yes. If you report abuse, you will be believed and your case will be fully investigated to uncover evidence that proves what happened.

Q. Will the person who abused me be allowed to have contact with me?

No. After a report of abuse is made, the person who abused you is removed from contact with you during the facility's investigation.

Q. What will happen with me after I report abuse?

After a report of abuse is made and RJDC is aware of it, you will be protected. This does not mean that you will be release or moved to a different facility, but RJDC will keep you safe.

Q. Will reporting affect my juvenile court case, my detention or placement status.

No. Making a report of abuse will not extend your stay in detention, lengthen your probation term or change your current placement status.

Q. Will I be punished for reporting abuse?

No. If you make a report and have told the **truth**, you will not be punished. You will be protected from further harm.

Q. What if I lie about being abused?

All reports of abuse are taken seriously. Reporting abuse is not a game. Anyone who falsely reports abuse may face serious **criminal charges**.

Q. Will I have to testify in court?

You will be questioned by investigators about what happened. If the abuser faces criminal charges, you may be asked to testify in court.

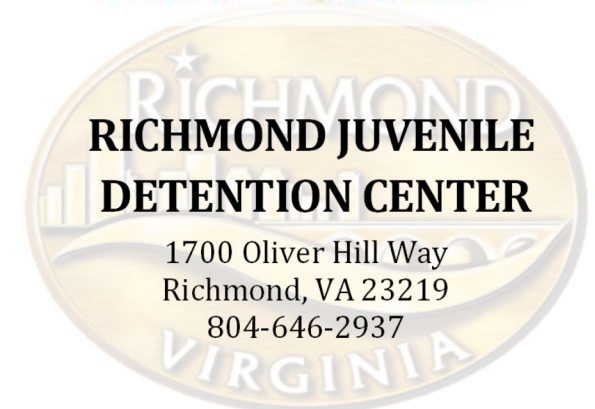
Q. What if the abuse happened at home?

If the abuse happened at home, at school, or in your community, then you should report it to a staff member you trust.

If Abuse Happens You — SPEAK OUT

Break the Silence AND

Tell Someone



What is Abuse?

What is physical abuse?

It is something done to you that causes physical pain or injury to your body, often called assault. It may involve hitting, kicking, punching, choking, or other acts done by an adult or another resident against you.

What is sexual abuse?

It is a sexual act committed against you or the intentional touching of your body in a sexual way by another person.

What is neglect?

It happens when persons responsible for taking care of you fail to do so. For example, it can involve facility staff refusing to let you see a doctor when you are sick or injured, not giving you medicine that was prescribed by your doctor, and/or not being present when he or she is supposed to be.

What is emotional abuse?

It is an action by another person that may cause you extreme embarrassment, mental or emotional harm instead of physical harm. For example, cursing at you or making sexual or hateful comments about you.

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment is the repeated and unwelcomed sexual advances, request for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one detainee directed toward another; and repeated verbal comments or gestures of sexual nature to a detainee by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

Who Can Help?

If you are the victim of abuse, there are many people who want to help you. The important thing is to tell someone about the abuse immediately.

DO NOT BE SILENT.

Trustworthy Adults - In the facility, there are many adults who you see every day that will help and protect you. If you feel comfortable, you should talk to a facility staff member, supervisor, counselor, teacher, or nurse. There are so many adults who may visit you in the facility that can also listen and help such as your attorney, your probation officer, your parent(s), guardian(s), or other family members.

What do you do if you or someone else is abused or assaulted?

If you or someone else is abused or assaulted, you should immediately tell a staff member you feel safe with or call the abuse hotline.

Confidentiality

Information concerning the identity of a victim reporting any type of assault or abuse, and the facts of the report itself, shall be limited to those who have a need to know.

Can Abuse Happen to Me?

In a juvenile justice facility, you have the right to be safe and protected against abuse. Abuse includes physical and sexual abuse, and sexual harassment. We make every effort to keep you safe from harm. Despite the best protections in place abuse might sometimes happen. It is important that you know what to do if it happens to you or someone else.

YMCA

6 N. 5th Street
Richmond, VA 23219
804-643-6761

Greater Richmond Regional Hotline

804-612-6126

National Sexual Assault Hotline

800-656-4673 (HOPE)



**There is
NO
excuse for ANY
kind of abuse!**

