

Deeper Issues Tip Sheet

1. Disclaimer on the front end if possible when talking with children/students (and adults):

You understand what we're talking about is safe and confidential unless you disclose to me that you have been or are being hurt by someone else or you're thinking about hurting yourself. Those are things I would have to talk with your parents or authorities about.

2. Be a Non-Anxious Presence, an Attentive Listener

When they share dangerous information while talking, commend them for being brave and vulnerable and allowing you to be a part of their story.

You've been going through this for a while now; I can't imagine the strength and courage it's taken to struggle through this. I get how you'd be scared for this to come out.

I have to explain to you that you've shared something I can't keep confidential as it would be dangerous for me not to try to help you. Because you've been so courageous, I can walk alongside you through this or find someone who can.

3. Your role is not the investigator. You are not a trained forensic interviewer and could contaminate the case. Do not try to dig into more than what they have shared.

4. Go immediately and make thorough notes of what you've been told and report it to the ministry leader.

Report Child Abuse: 877-237-0004

Sumner Co (615) 451-5818

TN Dept of Children's Services

What is Child Abuse and Neglect

- Physical abuse: Non-accidental trauma or physical injury of a child, or failure to protect a child from harm.
- Neglect: Failure to provide for a child's physical survival needs to the extent that there is harm, or risk of harm, to the child's health or safety.
- Sexual abuse: When a child is involved in intentional sexual acts that produce sexual arousal and/or gratification for the perpetrator or sexual behaviors/situations in which there is a sexual component.
- Psychological harm: A repeated pattern of caregiver behavior or extreme incident(s) that convey to children they are worthless, flawed, unloved, unwanted, endangered. May include both abusive acts against a child and failure to act.

Specific Examples of Reportable Cases:

- A minor (under 18) who confesses to a crime, i.e.:
Regularly driving under the influence
Abusing another minor
- A minor who shares:

- Abuse or Neglect
- Having been raped
- Having sex with an adult (18+ years old)
- An adult (18 years+) having sex with a minor

911 REPORT SUICIDAL THOUGHTS to parents/spouse immediately

- Anyone talking about suicide-Don't try to evaluate their actual intention.

REPORTABLE CASES within 24 hours

Long Hollow can file the report or choose to meet with the family and ask them to make the report to DCS themselves and call you back within 24 hours with the Report #.

It is better and looks better for them to take the responsibility for it.

SERIOUS BUT NON-LEGAL REPORTABLE ACTIVITIES

Anorexia, Cutting, Substance Abuse, Sexting*:

Talk to them about the necessity for scheduling a meeting with their parents as soon as possible. Serious to treat the underlying issue.

*Sexting can be charged as a pornography crime.