

## What will happen if YOU Sexually abuse someone ?

The Juvenile Department will report the information to the police/DHS and will seek criminal charges to be filed on anyone who sexually abuses another person.

Police will investigate and provide a report to the District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney's Office will determine what charges are to be filed.

If you are found guilty you will likely face time in custody, on probation, and you could be placed in a correctional facility or other residential facility depending on your age and the charges.

If you have trouble controlling your actions, ask for help from an adult. Seek help so that you don't harm anyone.

## What happens if YOU make a false report ?

The Juvenile Department takes reports of abuse very seriously. Anyone making a false report will be held accountable. If you choose to make a false report of abuse against anyone, you could face new criminal charges.

Our goal is to provide the safest programs possible. Being honest in what you say and do is a big part of staying safe.

## How to avoid sexual abuse ?

The only way sexual abuse can be prevented is when a person chooses not to sexually abuse. However, you can be safer by following these guidelines:

- Be aware of situations and people that make you feel uncomfortable
- Be aware of your surroundings and stay away from areas that are isolated
- Yell "NO" or "STOP IT NOW"
- Walk and stand with confidence
- Report any knowledge you have of anyone being abused
- Report any knowledge you have of anyone who is abusing others

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Linn County  
Juvenile Department  
YOUTH SAFETY GUIDE

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE

It is important to us that you remain safe and free from all types of abuse while in our care. Our goal is to help you succeed in a safe environment.



Linn County  
Juvenile Department has  
ZERO TOLERANCE  
of abusive behaviors.



## ~ Sexual Abuse ~ Facts to Keep You Safe!

What is Sexual Abuse?

It is ILLEGAL for any adult to have sexual contact with anyone under 18 years of age.

A youth under 18 years of age cannot legally give consent for any sexual contact.

Sexual intercourse or oral sexual contact with any person without their consent is a Felony crime.

Other sexual contact ( over or under clothing ) including touching, fondling, or manipulating the anus, genitals, or breast, by any part of the body or using an object, or causing a person to engage in such contact without their consent is sexual abuse and a crime.

Although the person who abused you may threaten to harm you in some way and you may be scared, make sure you **REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE IMMEDIATELY.**

All sexual and romantic activity between staff members and youth is prohibited and against the law.

## What SHOULD you do if you are sexually abused?

### How do YOU report it ?

If you are sexually abused or know of someone that has been sexually abused, you need to report it immediately. Abuse can be emotional, physical, or sexual. It is important to report all types of abuse. Although reporting can be difficult to do, it will keep you and others safe from more harm. The person who caused the harm will not be able to continue to harm you or hurt others.

You can talk to one of the following people about what happened:

- Any Juvenile Department staff or Manager/Supervisor
- School counselor or Teacher
- DHS Worker
- Your parents or other adult
- Attorney or Police Officer
- Medical Staff
- Fill out a Linn County Juvenile Department Alleged Abuse and Grievance Report Form.

If you need to report abuse, please call the Department of Human Services at 541-757-5019 or your local law enforcement agency.

The longer you wait to report sexual abuse, the more power you give the abuser. All reports will be investigated and turned over to the police as required by law.

Ask to see the nurse immediately if you need medical assistance.

If you are sexually abused, the police will want to keep evidence:

- Do not shower
- Do not brush your teeth
- Do not use the restroom
- Do not change your clothes

### **Take Action!**

Tell a staff immediately if someone tries to isolate you, singles you out, gives you anything special, wants to trade or loan an item, or offers you protection.

It is very important you report these things to a staff or adult you trust.

If the staff or adult you told does not take you seriously or does not believe you, tell another staff or adult you trust. Fill out an alleged abuse/grievance form.