



INDEPENDENCE  
HOUSE

# Independence House, Inc.

*Cape Cod's leading domestic and sexual violence emergency housing resource, counseling and advocacy center to address and prevent domestic and sexual violence.*

*Promoting safe and healthy relationships*

## CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PROGRAM

Child sexual abuse includes both touching and non-touching sexual activity between an adult and minor child. A child cannot consent to any form of sexual activity. When a perpetrator engages with a child this way, they are committing a crime that can have lasting effects on the victim for years.

The number or reported cases does not accurately capture the actual number of children sexually abused because the majority of child abuse is not reported.

Untreated trauma from child sexual abuse can have life-long impacts. Children who have been sexually abused describe a variety of feelings including fear, shame, hopelessness, and display high-risk behaviors including drug abuse and sexualized behavior.

Finding a counselor for your child to process through the abuse is important.

### Included in the program:

- individual counseling specialized for children (ages 5+) who have been sexually abused
- advocacy
- assessments and referrals

**All services are free and confidential.**



**The Independence House Child Sexual Abuse Program is funded by MOVA through the 1984 VOCA grant from OVC, OJP, U.S.D.O.J.**

**24-hour Hotline: 800-439-6507**

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## CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PROGRAM

### Some examples of Child Sexual Abuse include:

#### Touching

- Sex trafficking
- Fondling
- Sex of any kind
- Touching a child's genitals and/or forcing a child to touch someone else's genitals
- Playing sexual games

#### Non-Touching

- Masturbation (in the presence of the child or having the child participate)
- Child pornography (including having the child watch)
- Exposing self to child
- Inappropriate texts, phone calls, and/or digital communication

### Who are the perpetrators?

The majority of abusers are someone that the child knows well and trusts and has easy access to the child. Most reported abusers are male. Any adult who sexually abuses a child is taking advantage of the child's trust and vulnerability.

### What to do if your child has been sexually abused?

Let your child know you believe them. Listen to your child and allow them to express their feelings (if they want to). Your child may not want to talk about the abuse and that is OK. Be there to listen if and when they do want to talk. Let your child know that the abuse is in no way their fault.

Non-offending family members and society are also impacted by child sexual abuse. Parents and other non-offending family members may feel guilty or stressed about the sexual abuse. The negative effects cost society billions of dollars annually for healthcare, law enforcement, social services and court costs.

## Independence House Programs

Domestic Violence Program  
Sexual Violence Rape-Crisis Center  
Emergency Residence Program  
Children Exposed to Sexual Violence Program  
Homelessness Prevention Program  
Child Sexual Abuse Program  
Teen Program  
Abuse in Later Life Program  
SAFEPLAN Court Advocacy Program  
Housing Stabilization Program  
Prevention, Education & Outreach Program  
Survivors of Homicide Victims Program

## Services

24-Hour Hotline  
Medical and Police Accompaniment  
Legal Advocacy  
Safehome and Shelter Search  
Childcare  
Individual and Group Counseling



Independence House is a LGBTQIA+ Safe Space. Independence House is accessible to all people, ages 5+, all gender identities, all sexual orientations, all cultures, all languages, all abilities and all disabilities.