



## WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFETY

**Talk to your child** about his or her experiences in YMCA programs, school, sports, and other activities.

**Drop in on your child's programs.**

**Trust your instincts.** Don't wait to tell someone if something seems "strange." Speak up!

**Watch for warning signs of abuse:**

- Unexplainable bruising or other physical markings
- Disturbed sleeping or eating patterns
- Abrupt changes in behavior/anxiety, clinging, aggressiveness, withdrawal, depression
- Fear of a certain person or place
- Discomfort with physical contact
- A child who abuses other children

**Listen and watch for signs of your child receiving special attention** that other children or teens are not receiving, including favors, treats, gifts, rides, increasing affection or time alone, particularly outside the activities of school, child care, or other activities.

**Every once in a while, ask your child these questions:**

- Is anyone scaring or threatening you?
- Is anyone asking you to keep secrets?
- Has anyone said anything to you that made you feel bad?
- Is anyone touching you in a way that you don't like?

**Encourage your child to tell** you or another trusted adult if anything happens to him or her.

**Read our Code of Conduct.** If someone breaks it, let us know immediately.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Reporting Suspected Cases of Child Abuse

**PA ChildLine**

1-800-932-0313

Child Abuse Helplines

**PA Coalition Against Rape**

1-888-772-7227

**Cumberland/Perry Crisis Helpline**

1-866-350-4357

**Dauphin County Helpline**

(717) 652-4400

**Pinnacle Health Children's Resource Center**

(717) 782-6802

Support Groups and Healing

**Pinnacle Health Children & Teen Center**

(717) 782-4650

**Holy Spirit Women's Resource Center**

(717) 763-2228

**Join the Movement –  
Empower People to Prevent Child Abuse**

[www.darkness2light.org](http://www.darkness2light.org)



KNOW



SEE



RESPOND



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFETY

### Creating A Child Safe Environment



# YMCA AND YOUTH

Parents trust in the YMCA to help their children thrive. Our core values – **caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility** – are part of everything we do. Because of this, we place great value on creating the most child-safe environment possible.

The Harrisburg Area YMCA has Youth Programs at all of its branches:

## **CAMP CURTIN YMCA**

2135 N 6th Street · Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 238-9622

## **EAST SHORE YMCA**

701 N Front Street · Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 232-9622

## **FRIENDSHIP YMCA**

5000 Commons Drive · Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 234-9622

## **NORTHERN DAUPHIN COUNTY YMCA**

500 N Church Street · Elizabethville, PA 17023  
(717) 362-9494

## **WEST SHORE YMCA**

410 Fallowfield Road · Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(717) 737-9622

## **YMCA CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING**

805 N Front Street, 2nd Floor · Harrisburg, PA 17102  
(717) 232-2068

Adults and youth may report suspicions (anonymously, if preferred) by calling the Executive Director at your branch.



## YMCA CHILD SAFE POLICY

### **OUR STAFF**

The Harrisburg Area YMCA has more than 1,300 staff members and volunteers working with youth in the many programs we offer.

### **OUR SCREENING**

To keep children in our programs safe, we take the following steps in our intensive screening of employees and volunteers:

- Detailed application forms
- Comprehensive interview process
- Reference checks
- Criminal background checks and fingerprinting

### **OUR TRAINING**

Employees and volunteers complete an extensive child abuse prevention training program to further promote a child-safe environment. All staff members are mandated to report suspected child abuse. Staff and volunteers are required to be trained in the Darkness 2 Light – **Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse Prevention** and **Mandated Reporter** training at time of hire.

### **OUR POLICIES**

Staff is prohibited from working one-on-one with youth outside of the YMCA (i.e. babysitting). Policies exist to ensure staff and volunteers are not alone with a child.

# INFORMATION ABOUT ABUSE



**The YMCA wants all children to be safe. Unfortunately, child abuse does exist, taking many forms.**

### **EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

Threatening a child or using words that can hurt a child's feelings or self-esteem; withholding love and support from a child

### **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

Causing injuries to a child on purpose, such as bruises, burns, scars, or broken bones

### **SEXUAL ABUSE**

Having sexual contact in any form with a child, including exposing, fondling, intercourse, pornography, or internet solicitation

### **NEGLECT**

Not providing children with enough food, clothing, shelter, medical care, hygiene, or supervision

**IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE, CALL  
PA CHILDLINE 1-800-932-0313**