



*“Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear.”*

-Ambrose Redmoon



## EFFECTS ON FAMILIES OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OFFENDERS

When someone in your home is investigated for crimes against children, you may feel a roller coaster of emotions. This is normal. Many people in your shoes experience a range of emotions, such as:

- |           |               |              |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| Confusion | Fatigue       | Overwhelmed  |
| Relief    | Denial        | Anger        |
| Anxiety   | Grief         | Frustration  |
| Disbelief | Depression    | Helplessness |
| Fear      | Feeling Alone | Lost         |

**IF THE ALLEGED OFFENDER LIVES IN YOUR HOME AND YOU HAVE CHILDREN** - your main responsibility is to ensure your children are protected. But you may feel torn by concern for the alleged offender. It may seem overwhelming to take charge under these circumstances, but it is up to you to get help for your family.

Your child may be experiencing the same emotions as you. In addition, you may notice physical or behavioral reactions due to stressors in your child's life:

- |                    |            |                  |
|--------------------|------------|------------------|
| Nausea             | Clinginess | Nightmares       |
| Change of appetite | Irritable  | Angry            |
| Excessive sleep    | Fears      | Rebellious       |
| Withdrawal         | Outbursts  | Lack of interest |

Learn more about the signs that an adult may be at risk to harm a child:

[stopitnow.org](http://stopitnow.org)



Your Resource for Information and Assistance



# WHAT CAN I DO?

## LET YOUR CHILD KNOW YOU ARE AVAILABLE IF HE/SHE WANTS TO TALK.

*Be supportive and avoid questioning your child. If information is volunteered, listen and allow your child to tell you in his/her own words. If new information is revealed, please notify law enforcement.*

## MAINTAIN FAMILY ROUTINES.

*You may be tempted to relax family rules. Children feel most secure and stable in a predictable environment.*

## TAKE THINGS ONE DAY AT A TIME.

*Sometimes a crisis feels like it is consuming your whole life. Do your best to focus on today and try not to worry about tomorrow.*

## FOCUS ON THE THINGS YOU CAN DO.

*You may have mixed feelings about consequences for the alleged offender, but this is not an area you can control. It is more beneficial to focus on things within your control.*

## TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

*Schedule time to relax or do something you enjoy. Process your feelings with trusted adults, your support system, or a therapist.*

## GET HELP.

*If you need additional support, please consider the below resources:*

- **Children’s Justice Center Program**  
Email: [info@utahcjc.org](mailto:info@utahcjc.org)
- **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)**  
24Hour Hotline: 1-800-843-5678  
Website: [missingkids.org](http://missingkids.org)
- **Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute (UNI) Crisis Line**  
24 - Hour Hotline: 801-587-3000
- **Utah Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS)**  
801-538-4100  
Email: [dcfs@utah.gov](mailto:dcfs@utah.gov)
- **Utah Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force**  
801-281-1211  
Email: [utahicac@agutah.gov](mailto:utahicac@agutah.gov)
- **Utah Trafficking In Persons (UTIP) Task Force**  
801-200-3443  
Email: [humantraffickingtip@agutah.gov](mailto:humantraffickingtip@agutah.gov)
- **Victim Social Services**  
801-281-1206  
Email: [victimservices@agutah.gov](mailto:victimservices@agutah.gov)

