

# Green Bear Guidelines

## Perpetrators



### Perpetrators in Authority Positions

Perpetrators in positions of authority (teacher, physician, clergy, youth/scout leader, etc.) use various strategies to trap students. Some examples include:

- Lies
- Isolation
- Quid Pro Quo (Example - A coach will let a student start on the team if they allow them to touch the student inappropriately)
- Targeting vulnerable or marginalized children who are grateful for the attention

Perpetrators who abuse in leadership positions are often those the child most likes, parents most trust, and are model citizens in the community

*Over 90% of children who are abused know their perpetrator.*

### Grooming/Manipulative Behaviors

Perpetrators are often professional, accomplished, and celebrated.

Because of this, it is sometimes difficult for a community to acknowledge allegations because of the perpetrator's "outstanding community service."

*A perpetrator who abuses children will not only groom the child, but also the family and the entire community.*

### Grooming

In most cases, a perpetrator who abuses children will groom them before the abuse occurs. The purposes of grooming include:

- Testing the ability to maintain secrets
- Desensitizing the child through progressive sexual behavior (touching)
- Providing the child with experiences that are valuable and the child does not want to lose
- Learning information that may discredit the child
- Gaining approval from parents.



## Protect Your Child from Grooming

- Know who your child spends time with . . . and where
- Teach children respect does not mean blind obedience to adults in authority
- Spend time with your child so they will not need attention from another adult
- Question long or repeated phone calls, texts or messages with an adult. *Adults are not a child's peer!*
- Question frequent rides home alone or one-on-one meetings with one certain adult.



*The lonely child who is not listened to at home is a perfect target for a perpetrator.*

**Perpetrators report they look for passive, quiet, troubled children from single-parent or broken homes.**

## Two Primary Goals of Perpetrators

**Access to Children** The first goal of a perpetrator is obtaining access to children. They can:

- Choose careers where they are in close proximity to children - teachers, faith-based leaders, day care providers, or bus drivers are a few examples.
- Volunteer at children's extracurricular activities such as scouts, sports leagues, or faith-based events (Sunday School teacher).
- Target single women with children for a romantic relationship to gain access to their children.

**Prevent the child from disclosing** Perpetrators seek out children who are particularly trusting. A skilled perpetrator has an arsenal of techniques they can utilize to prevent naïve children from disclosing abuse. Their second goal is to groom the child through secret-keeping, bribes, threats, or quid pro quo or manipulate the child into caring about them so they will not disclose abuse.

*If child abuse is suspected, contact  
Missouri's Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738.*