

Glossary

Abduction: When a perpetrator takes a child by the use of physical force or threat or detains a child in an isolated place without lawful authority.

Abuse: Harm or threatened harm to a minor's health or safety by a person responsible for the minor's health or safety or a person in a position of power or control over a minor. It includes physical, verbal, emotional, or sexual abuse and exploitation or child neglect.

Blog: Short for web log. An instantly updatable online journal used for publishing short, informal comments and ideas. The act of keeping a blog is known as blogging.

Boundaries: The physical and emotional limits a person establishes in his/her relationships.

Buddy system: The practice of pairing two or more people together for mutual assistance or safety.

Bullying: Repeated exposure to intentional injury or discomfort inflicted by one or more persons against another. Bullying behavior may include physical contact, verbal assault, social ostracism, obscene gestures or other aggressive acts that cause the victim to feel fearful or distraught.

Cache: The area of a computer's hard drive where web pages and page elements are stored when they are downloaded from the Internet, making it easier and faster for the user to revisit those pages.

Chastity: The virtue which tempers, regulates, and moderates one's sexual desires, thoughts, and actions.

Chat room: A virtual room where people can communicate in real time while on the Internet. When using a chat room, computer users type their messages with a keyboard and the entered text appears on the monitor, along with the text of the other chat room visitors.

Date rape: Often called acquaintance rape, this is unwanted sexual contact perpetrated by someone known to the victim. Most commonly, the perpetrator is a boyfriend, ex-boyfriend, or acquainted in some way with the victim. The victim can be female or male and the perpetrator can be male or female.

Date rape drug: A drug administered surreptitiously (as in a drink) to induce an unconscious or sedated state in a potential victim of sexual abuse.

Emotional abuse: A pattern of behavior by an adult that can seriously interfere with a child's cognitive, emotional, psychological, or social development. Emotional abuse can include ignoring, rejecting, isolating, terrorizing, verbally assaulting, exploiting, and/or corrupting a child or young person.

File sharing: The act of making files on one computer that are accessible to others on a network.

Grooming: Behavior that indicates that a person is trying to set up and prepare another person to be the victim of sexual abuse.

Instant messaging (IM): Technology similar to that of chat rooms which enables real-time text-based online communication. A user is notified when one of their "contacts" or "buddies" is online, allowing them to communicate with each other by exchanging text messages and files via special software.

Internet safety: The concept of being educated and empowered to take control of online experiences. It involves recognizing and making smart and responsible decisions in potentially dangerous situations.

Minor: A child or young person who is under the age of legal competence (18 years of age).

Modesty: The virtue that regulates one's actions and exterior customs concerning sexual matters. Modesty in dress is to avoid clothing that can be expected to cause sexual arousal in oneself or others.

Neglect: The failure or omission of an adult to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and/or supervision to a minor; or the failure to provide special care to a minor that is made necessary by their physical or mental condition; and/or child abandonment.

Obscene: Anything that is offensive to the virtues of decency or modesty.

Perpetrator of child abuse: Someone who has harmed children or young people.

Physical abuse: Knowingly or intentionally causing serious physical harm to a minor.

Pornography: Graphics and/or text that is sexually explicit in nature and designed to cause sexual arousal or stimulation in the viewer.

Posting: Sending a message, photo, or document to an online message board to be viewed by others.

Prudence: First among the cardinal virtues – the correct knowledge of things to be done or avoided. Prudence requires three things: 1) considering the consequences of future actions; 2) judging correctly from the evidence at hand; and 3) directing one's activity accordingly.

Respect: The virtue of speaking and acting with courtesy. Respect means treating others with the dignity due to all humans as children of God.

Self-esteem: How a person feels about himself/herself. Positive self-esteem indicates that a person feels worthwhile and valuable; poor self-esteem implies the opposite.

Sexual abuse: Any contact between a minor and an adult, or a person significantly older or in a position of power over the minor, where the minor is being used for sexual stimulation of the older person.

Trusted adult: An adult who will not intentionally confuse, scare, or harm a child. Trusted adults respect the dignity of children and the rules established by a child's parents, guardians, and caretakers.

Verbal abuse: Words that attack or injure a person, cause one to believe an untrue statement, or speak falsely of an individual. Making a person the butt of jokes, cursing someone, calling a person degrading names, defaming one's character, and/or similar behavior is considered verbal abuse.

Virtue: Character traits which lead people to do what is right and avoid what is wrong; the habitual disposition of a person to act with goodness.

Warning signs: Behavior in children that may indicate they are victims of abuse or neglect. Warning signs include such behaviors as poor hygiene, sudden changes in mood or personality, low self-esteem, unusual nervousness around adults, aggression towards others, inability to stay awake or concentrate, loss of appetite, self-destructive behavior, promiscuity, and/or unexplained bruises or injuries.