

Support for a child or youth victim of harm or crime

A guide for parents and caregivers



Support for a child or youth victim of harm or crime - for parents and caregivers

Parents want to keep their children safe. When children or youth are victims of harm or crime, this can be very hard for parents and caregivers, as well as the young victims.



How to respond

- Be calm and patient – allow your child to be heard.
- Reassure them that it is OK that they have shared what has been happening and that you are here to support them.
- Reassure your child that they are not at fault and they are not the cause of any distress you feel.
- Reassure your child you can handle what is happening and can protect them.
- Acknowledge your child's bravery and strength.
- You are the most important person in your child's life, so it is crucial to take care of yourself so you can support them.

Listen and support

- Respect that they may only reveal partial details.
- Avoid leading questions and let them use their own words (e.g. ask "What happened next?" rather than "How did they hurt you?").
- Avoid quizzing them about details of the abuse:
 - › Focus on how to best support them in that moment.
 - › Do not be afraid of saying the "wrong" thing.
 - › Listening supportively is more important than what you say.
- Avoid making promises you can't keep and try to manage expectations.
- Accept that they may "act out" but set limits.
- Understand your own feelings and take care of yourself.

Next steps

- Get support for you and your child – see resources list on the next pages.
- Consider whether you need to report the crime or harm your child experienced.
- Discuss with them any steps to take.
- Watch for signs that they need additional support or help.

When a child or youth may need protection and how to report it

You are required by the Child and Family Services Act to report to the RCMP or Family and Children Services (FCS) when a child is in need of protection, such as if a child or youth is, or likely to be harmed physically, emotionally or sexually by their parent or someone close. Please refer to Section 21 of the Child and Family Services Act for more information

If you are still unsure about reporting, the best option is to call the RCMP and/or FCS to report your concerns.

Reporting a child in need of protective intervention

RCMP or local detachment

- › 911
- › 667-5555 (non-emergencies)

Family and Children's Services

- › **Phone:** 867-667-3002
- › 24 hours per day, 7 days per week

Cybertip

Canada's tipline for reporting online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

- › [Cybertip.ca](https://www.cybertip.ca)

Learn more about child abuse and the duty to report a child in need of protection:

- › [yukon.ca/en/child-abuse](https://www.yukon.ca/en/child-abuse)

Resources to support children and youth victims of harm or crime

Get support

School

The school administrator and/or counsellor at your child's school can be contacted directly to:

- assist in supporting helpful and safe school responses for your child.
- offer support to students and families with school and community resources; and
- ensure the school can create a safe and caring environment.

Contact your child's school and ask to speak with the school counsellor.

School community consultant at student support services

The school community consultant works alongside schools and the broader community to support positive mental health and trauma informed practices within schools. Together with the school counsellor, a student's needs can be identified and planning can begin to meet those needs within the school environment.

- › Phone: 867-332-7015
- › StudentSupportServices@yukon.ca

Victim Services

If your child is a victim of harm or crime, we can provide support for them and your family. We provide a range of support and information, including:

- coordinating services and helping to create a circle of care with the school, student services and other support organizations;
- providing crisis support for parents, children and youth, and other affected family members;
- helping you and your child develop a support and safety plan if needed; and
- helping your child get support from other agencies.

You can phone or drop-in to talk to us, with or without booking an appointment.

- › Phone: 867-667-8500
- › Toll free: 1-800-661-0408, ext 8500
- › victim.services@yukon.ca
- › yukon.ca/en/legal-and-social-supports/supports-victims-crime/get-support-child-victims-crime

Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART)

We provide a safe and confidential network of services that focuses on the victim's needs and choices.

- › Phone: 1-844-967-7275
- › sartyukon.ca

Canadian Centre for Child Protection

We help survivors and caregivers navigate a crisis situation by providing support and taking the next steps.

- › protectchildren.ca/en/survivor-support/how-we-can-help

Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office

We will help you be heard and make sure your rights are considered when decisions are being made about you.

- › Phone: 867-456-5575
- › Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5575
- › info@ycao.ca
- › ycao.ca

Support lines

Kids Help Phone

Confidential and free, 24hrs, 7 days/week (24/7).

- › Toll free: 1-800-668-6868
- › Text CONNECT 686868
- › kidshelpphone.ca

Sexualized Assault Support Line

Get support, find out your options or access services. It's free of charge and available 24/7, Yukon-wide.

- › Toll free: 1-844-967-7275
- › sartyukon.ca

VictimLink

Free, 24-hour crisis help.

- › Toll free: 1-800-563-0808
- › www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/victims-of-crime/victimlinkbc

Canadian Mental Health Association Yukon

The Reach Out Support Line.

- › Phone: 867-668-6429
- › Toll free: 1-844-533-3030
- › Hours: 10 am to 2 am, seven days a week, and all holidays.
- › programs@yukon.cmha.ca
- › yukon.cmha.ca

Women's Transition Home (Kaushee's Place)

Confidential and free crisis line, available 24/7.

- › Phone: 867-668-5733
- › womenstransitionhome.ca

Hope for Wellness Help Line

Offers immediate help to all Indigenous peoples across Canada.

It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to offer immediate support and crisis intervention.

- › Phone: 1-855-242-3310
- › Online chat at hopeforwellness.ca

Wellness and counselling

Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services

We offer child and youth specific services.

- › Phone: 867-456-3838
- › yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/mental-wellness/get-counselling-and-support-families-youth-and-children

Canadian Mental Health Association Yukon

We offer counselling and support group for youth.

- › Phone: 867-668-6429
- › Toll free: 1-844-533-3030
- › Hours: 10 am to 2 am, seven days a week.
- › programs@yukon.cmha.ca
- › yukon.cmha.ca

Your school counsellor and/or administrator

Contact your child's school and ask to speak with the school counsellor or administrator to help connect you to supports.

Your First Nation government

Contact your First Nation government office and ask about wellness and support services.

Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program

Provides cultural and emotional support, and mental health counselling services to Survivors of Indian Residential Schools and the families of former students.

- › Toll free: 1-866-509-1769
- › sac-isc.gc.ca

Yukon First Nation Education Directorate

Education Advocates and the Mobile Therapeutic Unit support Indigenous Yukon children aged 0-18 across the Yukon.

- › 300-204 Black Street, Whitehorse
- › Phone: 867-667-6962
- › yfned.ca

Legal support

The Independent Legal Advice (ILA)

We provide victims of intimate partner violence and sexualized violence with free legal advice and information. The program gives victims confidence to make informed decisions.

- › Phone: 867-667-8500
- › Toll free: 1-800-661-0408, extension 8500
- › yukon.ca/en/get-legal-advice-victims-intimate-partner-violence-or-sexualized-assault

Financial supports

Jordan's Principle

Jordan's Principle is an Indigenous and Inuit child-first initiative that looks to fill the gaps in support and services to address the unmet, unique needs of the child.

Staff will assist you through the referral process and help you understand the scope of services eligible through Jordan's Principle.

Available 24/7.

- › Toll free: 1-833-393-9200.
- › Call centre: 1-855-JP-CHILD (1-855-572-4453)
- › jordans.principle@cyfn.net

Victims of Crime Emergency Fund (VCEF)

Get help to replace, repair or buy items that will impact your immediate safety. This is a fund of last resort.

- › Phone: 867-667-8500
- › Toll free: 1-800-661-0408, ext 8500
- › victim.services@yukon.ca
- › yukon.ca/en/victims-emergency-fund

The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

We provide eligible First Nations and Inuit clients with coverage for a range of health benefits not provided by other programs. Coverage for drugs, dental and vision care, medical supplies and equipment, mental health counselling and medical transportation.

For specific programs information, contact your First Nation government office and ask about financial support available.

- › www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1572537161086/1572537234517

Medical care

Whitehorse

Whitehorse General Hospital

We offer 24/7 emergency care, inpatient, laboratory services and advanced diagnostic imaging, sexualized assault care and examination kit by a SART examiner. SART services at Whitehorse General Hospital are available 24/7, every day of the year.

Yukon Sexual Health Clinic

We offer sexual and reproductive health services in the Yukon to people of all genders and sexual orientations, including STI, pregnancy testing and care.

- › Phone: 867-393-6635
- › facebook.com/YSHCwhitehorse

Opal Clinic

We provide confidential care for medication abortions, surgical abortions and miscarriages up to the 15th week of pregnancy.

- › Phone: 867-393-6635
- › opalyukon.ca

Yukon Communicable Disease Clinic (YCDC)

We provide testing, screening and resources for sexually transmitted diseases and communicable diseases.

- › Phone: 867-667-8323
- › yukon.ca/en/infectious-disease-control

Natsékhi Kù Health Centre – Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN)

We offer walk-in nursing clinic and counselling services.

- › Phone: 867-668-7289
- › kwanlindun.com/health/

Communities

Dawson City and Watson Lake Community Hospitals

We provide 24/7 emergency care, inpatient and ambulatory care as well as many lab and diagnostic imaging services. We also offer sexualized assault care and examination kit.

Community Health Centres

We are a walk-in/out-patient clinic for primary care, including dispensing specific medications and 24-hour emergency services.

- › yukon.ca/en/find-hospital-or-health-centre

National Online resources

Kids Help Phone

Canada's only 24/7 e-mental health service offering free, confidential support to young people in English and French.

- › kidshelpphone.ca

Canadian Centre for Child Protection

We help prevent and support victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation of children. ProtectKidsOnline.ca is designed to assist parents and guardians in protecting their children on the Internet and reducing their risk of victimization.

- › protectchildren.ca

Cybertips.ca

We are dedicated to combating online child exploitation and supporting survivors and their families in Canada, and across the world.

- › cybertip.ca

NeedHelpNow.ca

Helps teens stop the spread of sexual pictures or videos and provides support along the way.

- › NeedHelpNow.ca

If your child has caused harm

Many of these services are available to all Yukon families. If you are unsure where to start, contact the Family Resources Unit. They can provide support and referrals to services for families with children 19 and under.

- › Phone: 867-667-3745
- › yukon.ca/en/legal-and-social-supports/childrens-services/find-out-about-family-resource-unit

If your child has been charged with a crime, visit:

- › yukon.ca/en/legal-and-social-supports/supports-youth/helping-your-child-after-theyve-been-charged-crime





Yukon

yukon.ca