

WHAT HAPPENS ...

If you suspect a child is being abused; emotionally, physically or sexually:

1. Tell your Captain, Minister or other church official & inform BB Headquarters so that advice may be given.
2. Record any **facts** which support your suspicions.
3. Agree with other adults involved what action, if any, to be taken

If a child discloses to you abuse by someone else:

1. Allow the child to speak without interruption, accepting what is said, but **do not** investigate.
2. Alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement.
3. Advise that you will try to offer support, but that you **must** pass the information on.
4. Same steps as in 1-2 as in suspecting a child is being abused.

If you receive an allegation about any adult or about yourself:

1. Immediately tell your Captain, Minister or other Church official & inform BB Headquarters so that advice may be given.
2. Record the **facts** as you know them.
3. Try to ensure no-one else is placed in a position which could cause further compromise.

You **must** refer; you **must not** investigate



A code of good practice for adults working in The Boys' Brigade

*Please keep with you
when working with
children & young people*

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian youth organisation committed to providing a safe environment in which children and young people can develop socially and emotionally towards mature adulthood.

YOU MUST

- treat everyone with respect
- provide an example you wish others to follow
- plan other activities which involve more than one other person being present, or at least which are within sight or hearing of others
- respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- have separate sleeping accommodation for leaders and young people
- provide access for young people to talk to others about any concerns they may have
- encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like
- avoid physical horseplay such as wrestling or tickling
- remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned
- recognise that sensitivity is required in moments when you are discussing issues, such as bullying, bereavement, abuse or personal development

YOU MUST NOT

- permit abusive youth peer activities (e.g. Initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying)
- play physical contact games with young people
- have any inappropriate verbal or physical contact with young people or make suggestive remarks or gestures
- jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues
- show favouritism to any individual
- rely on just your good name to protect you