

OLG's Safeguard the Children News Corner - #1

OLG's Safeguard the Children Committee welcomes you to a series of articles to help educate our entire community to prevent child abuse in all its forms. We will present information regarding the various types of abuse, some signs of abuse, and how to report suspected abuse. We will keep you posted about opportunities for educational programs as well as general information and statistics through this series. We welcome your questions and input.

Contact Loretta Haemker at OLG School: 344-4126 or call the Ministry Office: 342-4505.

Imagine this scene. She was four years old. The marks on her body told the story. The welts on her skin showed that someone hit her with extension cords. Someone had burned her fingers. She survived. Others are not so fortunate. In 1996, more than one thousand children died because of physical violence. Seventy-five percent of those victims were under the age of four. Eighty percent of the perpetrators were parents. There are laws to protect children from perpetrators of abuse. The Welfare and Institutions Code states that if there is a substantial risk that a child will suffer serious physical harm, inflicted non-accidentally upon a child by the child's parents or guardian, the courts must protect that child. Children are precious and innocent. God loves them unconditionally. It is the duty of all people to "safeguard the children". No child should have to endure what that four year-old endured.

What should I do? How do I report abuse? I know that the children next door are being abused. I hear the screams. I have seen the bruises. They come to my door asking for food. However, they are neighbors and I do not want to get involved. What should I do? A responsible Christian is called to safeguard the children. The abused child suffers and in some cases, may die because of the abuse.



If you have a reasonable suspicion that someone is abusing a child, call the child abuse hotline for L.A. county: (800) 540-4000, (TTD line 800-272-6699);

for Ventura County: (800) 754-7600

for Santa Barbara county: (800) 367-0166.

To contact law enforcement (within L.A. County), with reports of sexual abuse call the L.A.P.D. Sexually Exploited Child Unit: (213) 485-2883,

the L.A. Sheriff's Dept.: (323) 526-5000,

or the District Attorney, Sexual Crimes and Child Abuse Unit: (213) 974-9790.

If the child is in immediate danger, call 911.