



Childline Gauteng

☎ 08000 55 555

Working collectively to establish a culture of child rights.

The Childline 24-Hour Toll-Free Line allows children's stories, their hurts and joys, to be heard. Our caring child friendly counsellors receive approximately 50 000 calls every month. Counselling is provided in all of the 11 official languages.

Trained counsellors provide information in the preferred language of the caller. Counsellors are trained to support and intervene in situations of: physical and sexual abuse; cases of lost, abandoned, missing and kidnapped children; legal, maintenance and custody issues; poverty and social grants; HIV/Aids and other health related issues such as anorexia and bulimia; child headed households; parenting skills; corporal punishment; bullying; sexuality and marriage counselling.

"Every child's story deserves a happy ending"

All our services are rendered in our community based centres in Tembisa, Katorus, Soweto, Sebokeng and the Inner City.

Childline Gauteng Projects

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Counselling and Support Services for Children and their families

- Individual therapy
- Family therapy
- Group therapy
- Play therapy
- Forensic assessments
- Court support for children and families
- Referrals for various child-related issues
- Treatment for court-mandated perpetrators of child abuse

Community Awareness & Prevention Project (CAPP)

- Workshops and training for all stakeholders
- Education and prevention services in the form of school talks for learners and workshops for teachers
- Counselling and protection for children who disclose abuse
- Parenting skills programme

Sunlight Safe House Project

- Short-term, home-based places of safety for children who, for their safety, have had to be removed from their homes and families after hours.
- Long term home-based care for HIV positive children.

Children's Rights and Responsibilities

- Children have the right to be taken seriously, and the responsibility to listen to others
- Children have the right to a good education, and the responsibility to study and respect their teacher
- Children have the right to have special care for special needs, and the responsibility to be the best person they can be
- Children have the right to be proud of their heritage and beliefs, and the responsibility to respect those of others
- Children have the right to make mistakes, and the responsibility to learn from these mistakes
- Children have the right to quality medical care, and the responsibility to take care of themselves
- Children have the right to be loved and protected from harm, and the responsibility to show love and care
- Children have the right to a safe and comfortable home, and the responsibility to keep it neat and clean
- Children have the right to be well fed, and the responsibility not to waste food

The Realities of Child Abuse

- Many children do not report sexual abuse because they are sworn to secrecy, or they are threatened, bribed or blamed, and they live in a state of fear, shame and anxiety
- Sexually transmitted diseases, genital trauma, pregnancy, and HIV/AIDS can result from sexual abuse
- Incest is not uncommon, and does not only happen because of drunkenness and deviancy. It can occur in any family, any socio-economic group, any religion, any race and any culture
- 85% of sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone known to the child
- Child sexual abuse is not always violent: the perpetrator is often someone who is trusted and loved by the child; the perpetrator uses the trust, love and affection to get the child to do what he/she wants; the sexual act is sometimes the only attention the child gets
- Perpetrators sometimes operate paedophile rings and deal in child pornography; they target vulnerable children, and entice the child through play, helpfulness, and bribes.
- Child abuse in whatever form, and perpetrated by whomsoever, has long-term, far-reaching consequences

Some signs & symptoms in children that could indicate abuse

- Knowledge of sexual acts which are age-inappropriate

- Personality changes
- Eating disorders/changes in eating habits
- Self mutilation
- Running away, rebelliousness
- Low self-esteem
- Withdrawal/depression/suicidal thoughts
- Overly eager to please
- Unexplained bruises, welts or burns
- Reluctance to go home or to school

What to do when a child discloses violence or abuse

- Find a private place to talk with the child
- Do not panic or express shock
- Show you believe her/his story
- Use her/his vocabulary
- Reassure the child that it is good to tell someone and that it is not her/his fault
- Determine the child's immediate need for safety
- Let the child know what you will be doing and who you will be speaking to
- Report the violence/abuse to the appropriate authorities – e.g. Childline

- Take the child to a District Surgeon for a medical exam
- Continue to believe and support the child

We need your help to continue to reach our vision, and would greatly appreciate your donation.

**Childline, First National Bank
Parktown, 250455
Account No. 50390033823**

On behalf of the children and the adults who need help and support – thank you.

We are affiliated to Childline SA, a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation, which operates nationally in the field of violence against children and young people in South Africa

43% of kids in South Africa are abused. That's 4 in every 10! Help Childline turn that round. Put your money where your heart is and donate R10 by smsing "child" to 38079.

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