



Have questions?

Need resources?

**Get Help Now!**

Online Help Center  
<http://GetHelp.StopItNow.org>

Stop It Now!<sup>®</sup> prevents the sexual abuse of children by mobilizing adults, families and communities to take actions that protect children before they are harmed.



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### **Signs That an Adult May Be At-Risk to Harm a Child**

Someone you care about may be acting in ways that worry or confuse you. The behaviors below may indicate a possible risk of sexual abuse to a child, but may also be a way for this adult to ask for help.

Many people with sexual behavior problems<sup>i</sup> believe that others already suspect and often wish someone would ask what's going on or advise them where to call to get help. Remember, you can start a conversation by pointing out harmful impacts on a child without accusing someone of abusive intentions.

### **Do you have concerns about someone you know in these areas of daily life?**

#### **Relationships**

- Misses or ignores social cues about others' personal or sexual limits and boundaries<sup>i</sup>?
- Often has a "special" child friend, maybe a different one from year to year?
- Spends most of his/her spare time with children and shows little interest in spending time with someone their own age?
- Encourages silence and secrets in children?

#### **Sexual Interactions**

- Links sexuality and aggression in language or behavior, e.g. sexualized threats or insults, like "whore" or "slut"?
- Makes fun of children's body parts, describes children with sexual words like "stud" or "sexy" or talks again and again about the sexual activities of children or teens?
- Masturbates so often that it gets in the way of important day-to-day activities?
- Has an interest in sexual fantasies involving children and seems unclear about what's appropriate with children?
- Looks at child pornography<sup>i</sup> or downloads/views Internet pornography<sup>i</sup> and is not willing to show whether children are involved?
- Asks adult partners to dress or act like a child or teen during sexual activity?

#### **Personal safety/responsibility**

- Has been known to make poor decisions while misusing drugs or alcohol?
- Justifies behavior, defends poor choices or harmful acts; blames others to refuse responsibility for behaviors?
- Minimizes hurtful or harmful behaviors when confronted; denies harmfulness of actions or words despite a clear negative impact?

For more information and guidance about starting a conversation with someone who behaves in these ways, please visit our Online Help Center, <http://GetHelp.StopItNow.org>.