Tips for Protecting Youth

How Offenders Operate (APC)

- Access
- Privacy
- Control

How to Recognize Boundary Violations:

Physical Boundary Violations
- Tickling,
- Horseplay,
- Hugging,
- Massaging,
- Wrestling, and
- Going overboard with affection.

Emotional Boundary Violations
- Making them feel important, cared about, understood,
- Spending too much time with them,
- Choosing favorites,
- Giving gifts, and
- Acting possessive.
- Sending excessive or inappropriate text messages,
- Pretending to be the child's friend on social networking sites like Facebook,
- Sharing personal information to make the child feel like they have a special relationship
- Promising extra coaching time, a college scholarship, a place on a national team, or even a spot on the Olympic Team!

Behavioral Boundary Violations
Offenders manipulate kids into doing things they wouldn't otherwise do, such as:
- Sneaking around by saying they will be in one place when actually they are in another,
- Keep secrets with the offender,
- Look at pornography, and
- Use drugs or alcohol.

Organization's Policies

- The organization's Code of Conduct
- Youth Protection Policies
- Best Practice Guidelines

How to Respond to Warning Signs

Follow these five steps:

1. Keep your eyes and ears open.

2. Talk with your child.

3. Then, ask your child about your concerns.

4. If what you learn from your child or if what you've observed or overheard at practice sounds like abuse, call Child Protective Services or the police.

5. If what you learn from your child, or if what you've observed or overheard at practice, sounds like a boundary violation, suspicious or inappropriate behavior, or a policy violation , then do the following:

   a. Share your concerns with the employee and/or with his supervisor and/or with the person in charge of your organization.

   b. If you are unable to do this, you can share your concerns with a Director and you can make a report to the organization by making a call, sending an email, or submitting the online form.