



Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County

~ To lead our community in eliminating the suffering of abused children. ~

The Mid-Month Memo

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Primary Partner Agencies

COMCARE of Sedgwick County
Exploited and Missing Child Unit
KS Dept. for Children and Families
Wichita Regional Office
KU School of Medicine - Wichita
Office of the District Attorney, 18th
Judicial District, Sedgwick County
Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office
Via Christi Health
Wesley Medical Center
Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center
Wichita Police Department

Protecting Children from Pedophiles

Much of what we know about pedophiles is from the media. We imagine men lurking near playgrounds preying on children. But, pedophiles come from all walks of life and socioeconomic backgrounds, so the ability to "spot" a pedophile does not exist. The danger in thinking we know how a child molester looks and acts, is that we miss the warning signs of a pedophile's activity.

Pedophiles are adults or teens 16 years and older who are sexually stimulated by pre-pubescent children (usually less than 11 years, but can include young teens). Contrary to the general public perception, pedophiles are often married or in committed relationships, and their educational and religious status do not differ from the general population. According to research, they are also no more likely to be gay, even if they victimize children of the same sex. Most of what we know about pedophiles is from those who are caught, which does not represent all offenders since those who do not match stereotypes or who have more resources often do not get caught.

Research also tells us that about 80% of pedophiles are not strangers, but are family members, acquaintances or people working with youth in the community. If you suspect a problem involving an adult's contact with children, take responsibility do something to address it. Information about how to approach these concerns will be covered in future articles and found at: <https://www.kidpower.org/library/article/protecting-kids-from-sexual-predators/>

For Your Calendar

July 28, 2015 Lunch and Learn - Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center: Protective Parenting/Personal Safety; 316-263-0185

September 12, 2015 Race for Freedom - 5K Run/Walk organized by ICT S.O.S. Info at: www.race4freedom.com

October 30, 2015: Heroes Gala, Scottish Rite Center.

November 4-6, 2015: 39th Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Topeka

Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County

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Child Vehicular Heat Stroke Prevention

The tragedy of a child dying in a hot car can be prevented. Heat stroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths in children under the age of 15. A child's body heats up much faster than an adult's. Even with the windows cracked, the inside temperature of a car can heat up as much as 20 degrees within 10 minutes. Any change from your usual routine, or being busy or distracted increases the risk of forgetting about a child in the car. A study of 637 child vehicular heat deaths in the U.S. from 1998 - 2014 shows these circumstances:

- 53% - child "forgotten" by caregiver (336 Children)
- 29% - child playing in unattended vehicle (186)
- 17% - child intentionally left in vehicle by adult (111)
- 1% - circumstances unknown (4)

Fewer than half of states make the practice of leaving a child unattended in a car illegal. In states that do not have specific laws, child endangerment or abuse statutes may still apply. An Associated Press analysis published in 2007 found that prosecutions and penalties in more than 310 fatal incidents over 10 years varied, depending on where the death occurred, who left the child - parent or caregiver, mother or father - and under what circumstances.

Here are some things parents and child care providers can do to prevent a tragedy:

- Put your cell phone, bag, purse, your left shoe, or anything you need after exiting the car in the back seat, which forces you to check there when you arrive at your destination. An added bonus is that this can also decrease the temptation to be distracted while driving.
- Keep a stuffed animal in the child's car seat. When the child is put in the seat, place the animal in the front with the driver.
- Purchase an alert monitor that pairs with your smart phone to remind you if you walk away from a child in a car seat.
- Always check the back seat before locking the car and walking away - make "look before you leave" a mandatory step each time you drive.
- Be extra alert when there is a change in your routine, someone else is driving your child or you take a different route to work or child care.
- If someone else is driving your child, check to make sure he or she has arrived safely.
- Have your child care provider call you if your child is more than 10 minutes late.
- To prevent a curious child from entering when no one is around, keep your car locked when it is parked and store your car keys out of a child's reach.
- Teach children that cars are not places to play.
- If a child is missing, check in pools and cars first.
- Take action if you see a child alone in a car. Call 911 and get the child out of the car.

Resources:

www.healthychildren.org

www.kidsandcars.org

Department of Meteorology & Climate Science, San Jose State

National Safety Council



If you suspect child abuse or neglect call 911 or 1.800.922.5330

"The purpose of child advocacy centers is to provide a comprehensive, culturally competent, multidisciplinary team response to reports of child abuse, in a dedicated, child-focused setting."

**The CACSC is accredited by the National Children's Alliance:
Empowering Local Communities to Serve Child Victims of Abuse**