



Child Advocacy Center
of Sedgwick County

RECOGNIZE | RESPOND | REPORT

Responding to Abuse

If a child is in imminent danger, please call 911, and make a report with the Kansas Protection Report Center at 1-800-922-5330

How to respond:

- I believe you.
- It's not your fault.
- I don't know what happens next, but I will help you.
- I'm glad you told me.
- I'm upset, but not at you
- Write down everything the child told you.
- Save all photos, emails, messages, etc.

How NOT to respond:

- Are you telling me the truth?
- Stop lying, that can't be true.
- Why did you let that happen?
- Why didn't you stop him/her?
- You must feel awful about that.
- He/She didn't mean to do that, let me know if it happens again.
- Do not lose your composure.
- Children rarely lie about being abused, don't try to determine if a disclosure is true.
- Do not confront the offender. This could be dangerous, and could interfere with the investigation.
- Do not use body language that could display anger or disappointment.

Report:

- Call 911 and make a report to the Kansas Protection Report Center 1-800-922-5330