Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

- Any sexual activity between an adult and a child is sexual abuse.
- Sexual activity between children of significant age difference or disparity in size or developmental ability may also be sexual abuse.
- May be physical (touching genitals, playing sexual games, any sexual contact with body parts or objects).
- May be non-physical (exposing genitals, showing pornography, taking photo/video of a child in sexual poses, encouraging child to watch or hear sexual acts; voyeurism while child undresses, bathes, or uses bathroom)

source: mamabeareffect.org

CSA often involves shame and secrecy. A child may not seek help if they are threatened, believe the abuse is their fault, or fear that a disclosure will cause family conflict.

For reasons such as these, delayed disclosure is not uncommon. In fact, for survivors who did not disclose as children, the average age of delayed disclosure is 52 years.

No one should have to carry the trauma of child sexual abuse that long. Visit penncac.org/shine to find out how CACs help child victims be safe & feel heard, so they can start to heal sooner.

In Pennsylvania, report suspected child abuse to ChildLine: 1-800-932-0313

Learn the Facts. Support Survivors.

- Nearly 14,000 Pennsylvania children visited a CAC in 2025 due to suspected abuse.
- Nearly 75% of those cases involved allegations of child sexual abuse.
- 1 in 10 chilren experience sexual abuse before they turn 18.
- 90% of alledged abusers are someone the child victim knows and trusts.

Children's Advocacy Centers of Pennsylvania

SHINE

Talking Tips

Avoid asking questions or making statements that may reinforce the stigma of CSA. Instead, use words that can help heal:

- **"I'm so sorry you went through that.**
- **"I believe you"**
- **"It wasn't your fault."**
- **"Your voice matters."**
- **"How can I support you?"**