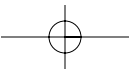


**Prevent Child Abuse**  
Kentucky



Funding for this project is made available in part by a grant from the Child Victim's Trust Fund. This program is closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. Printed August, 2003.



# Promise

## not to tell?

### A Teacher's Guide to Recognizing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse

Why Me?

I wish I could feel normal.

I can't trust anyone.

I tried to do my homework.

Please make it stop.

Why didn't I say no?

**One in three girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18**

I am ugly.

I feel dirty.

I am worthless.

I feel so alone.

I am so sad.

Why doesn't someone ask me what's wrong?

Handbook on Sexual Abuse of Children, Diana Russell, 1998

Sometimes I feel angry.

I am scared.

**You may never be asked to make this promise, but chances are you will encounter issues of child sexual abuse in your classroom**

Dear School Teacher,

I come to school each day hoping my life will change. No one seems to understand and no one seems to care. I am afraid to tell anyone just how bad it is. I thought he was my friend. He takes me to play at the park and even to the movies. I have heard that the touching he makes me do is wrong, but I am so confused. I tried to tell you yesterday but then I got scared. I feel like I am stupid and that I should know better than to keep going back to his house. I thought that if I yelled at you and called you bad names you would know. I thought that you would know when I could not run in gym class last week. I promise I am not lazy and I promise I am a good kid. Please make it stop. Please help me. Please promise not to tell my secret to anyone. If you do, I am afraid of what he might do to me.

Love,  
Me

Believe it or not, school is a safe haven for many students. Regardless of academic achievements, grade level or social status, a student is impacted by the devastating experience of childhood sexual abuse. We know that one in three girls and one in six boys will experience some form of unwanted sexual contact by the age of 18, according to the *Handbook on Sexual Abuse of Children*, Diane Russell (1998). As a school professional, you will, at some point in your career, be called upon to help.



Your response and action will help a child understand that he/she is not to blame. Your appropriate response can save a child from further abuse.

Please use this manual as a resource and guide in responding to suspected child sexual abuse in your school. *If you suspect that a student is being abused, even if they have not disclosed such abuse to you, you are legally required to make a report to the authorities.* Community resources to help you address issues related to child sexual abuse can be found in the back of this manual.

***“Child”, as defined by KRS 600.020 (8), means any person who has not reached his/her eighteenth birthday. The term child is used to refer to students (Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) throughout this informational material.***

## The Umbrella Term:

Sexual abuse is an “umbrella” term that is used to describe all forms of child sexual abuse. Teachers should document the actual events as stated by the child and **NOT** refer to the disclosure using the “umbrella” term.



Kentucky law defines child sexual abuse in a number of ways, including rape, sodomy and incest. For that reason, it is important to report exactly what the child says to avoid any confusion over the legal definitions of an offense.



## **The Impact of Childhood Victimization:**

Children are unique in every way. Just as no two children respond the same to discipline, no two will react in the same way to child sexual abuse. The impact of such an experience is dependent on several factors:

- **Age and developmental level of the child:**

Generally, the negative impact of childhood abuse increases with age and developmental level. That is, older children are better able to cognitively understand the inappropriateness of the abuse against them.

- **Degree of physical harm and use of weapons:**

Physical injury inflicted upon the child during the abuse adds to the negativity of the experience. Additionally, the threat of harm to the child, child's family, friends or pets, or the use of weapons by the perpetrator during the abuse can also compound the negative impact on the child.

- **The child's perception of the abuse:**

Child sexual abuse is never a positive experience and is devastating. Some children are "groomed" or given special attention by the perpetrator prior to the actual event of abuse. This grooming behavior fosters a trusting relationship between the child and the perpetrator. Children who have no family or where family relationships are non-rewarding tend to endure the abuse because of the perceived positive attention from the perpetrator. This eventually engenders intense shame in the child.

- **Nature of the abuse:**

Generally, child sexual abuse is an ongoing, long-term experience - not a one-time event. A repeated experience contributes to the impact of the abuse by fostering such feelings as helplessness and hopelessness.

- **Nature of the relationship between the child and the perpetrator:**

In most cases, the abuser is someone who is known to the child. As a result, there is a violation of a trusted relationship that intensifies the impact of the abuse.

- **The response of the child's family:**

The impact of abuse tends to be lessened when the victim's family or those who have a trusted relationship with the child believes the child.

## **Commonly Produced Feelings of Abuse:**

In addition to a variety of behavioral or physical changes, an array of emotional responses may be experienced by the victim. Feelings may be manifested by such statements as:

- **Guilt:**

"It was my fault."

"I should not have gone back again."

"I should have stopped it from happening."

- **A Sense of Personal Violation:**

"I am no longer safe."

"I have no protection from danger."

"I cannot trust others."

- **Loss of Control:**

"I can't make decisions."

"I have no control over my self, my body or my life."

- **Lowered Self-Esteem:**

“I am worthless.”

“I am not worthy of being loved.”

- **Anger:**

“I hate myself.”

“I hate everyone around me.”

- **Fear:**

“I am afraid to be alone.”

“I am afraid to love anyone again.”

“I am afraid to be loved.”

- **Shame:**

“I am bad and that is why he chose me.”

“I let him touch me to get nice things.”

## **Common Beliefs of Sexually Abused Children:**

Victims of abuse may have an array of thoughts that influence their behaviors in response to experiencing sexual abuse. Such thoughts may include:

- “No one can be trusted.”
- “Love hurts.”
- “I am not lovable.”
- “It wouldn’t have happened if only I . . .”
- “What happened to me makes me bad.”
- “What I did to survive is disgusting; therefore, I am disgusting.”
- “I don’t deserve to have good things happen to me because of what happened to me.”
- “I know the bad will happen soon, so let’s just get it over with.”
- “If I am tough, weak, sick, perfect or in control, I won’t get hurt anymore.”

As taken from Beverly James.

## Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse:

Victims of child sexual abuse may exhibit an array of the following behavioral and physical indicators. Please note that **NOT ALL** children will demonstrate observable changes in their behavior and actions. Although some changes are negative, other changes in children may be viewed as positive. For example, some children may become more compliant. In utilizing the indicators below, please be mindful of sudden or drastic behavioral changes. The key here is to know the children with whom you come into contact and which behaviors are typical for them.

### Behavioral indicators may include:

- Poor peer relationships
- Regression
- Sexualized behavior (touching others inappropriately)
- Sleeping and eating issues
- Aggressiveness
- Prostitution
- Run-away attempts
- Drug use
- Reluctance to participate in recreational activity
- Young children's preoccupation with sex organs of self, parents or other children
- Sexual sophistication beyond their years (knowledge and language)
- Withdrawn behavior
- Quietness
- Acting out



### **Physical indicators may include:**

- Difficulty walking and sitting
- Torn clothing
- Stained or bloody underwear
- Pain or itching in the genital area
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Early pregnancy
- Urinary tract infections
- Bleeding, cracks or tears around orifices
- Psychosomatic complaints (stomachaches, headaches, etc.)
- Gagging, vomiting
- Bed wetting or soiling once toilet training is completed

## Responding to a Child Who Makes a Disclosure of Sexual Abuse:



Both verbal and non-verbal communications send important messages to children. The reaction of a trusted adult to whom a child discloses being a victim of sexual

abuse can have a lasting impression. The response of the first person to whom the child discloses sets the tone for how the child views the abuse from that point forward. It is important that your words and body language send an empathic response that allows the child to feel safe. Remember not to talk negatively about the alleged perpetrator because he/she is likely to be a friend or family member. Below are some suggested ways in which to respond to a child who discloses being sexually abused:

- “I am glad you told me; I know it must be hard to talk about.”
- “Remember that this was not your fault.”
- “I will help you find the help you need.”
- “I am glad you felt you could trust me.”
- “I am very proud of you for telling me.”

## **Duty to Report Suspected Abuse (KRS 620.030):**

All school staff members, including educators, support staff and school administrators, are bound by Kentucky law to report a suspicion of abuse. If in doubt as to whether or not a report should be made, err on the side of caution and make a report. The only exemptions from this duty to report are the clergy-penitent and attorney-client relationship.



Anyone that suspects or has reason to believe that a child is being sexually abused **MUST** report to one of the four agencies listed below: (KRS 620.040)

- Department for Community Based Services
- Local Law Enforcement or Kentucky State Police
- Commonwealth Attorney
- County Attorney

### **Reporting suspected child sexual abuse (KRS 620.040):**

When school staff give the information of suspected abuse to a school counselor or other school administrator the legal requirement for reporting is **NOT** met. School personnel should not conduct internal investigations under any circumstances, but rather report suspected abuse to one of the agencies listed above.

## What to Report (KRS 620.030)

When a report of suspected abuse is made to one of the four agencies listed on the previous page, information should be shared that will allow a quick and appropriate response. Representatives from these agencies will likely request additional information. Please note that **NOT ALL** information must be known in order to make a report of suspected abuse. Typical information that may be requested includes:

- The child's identity
- The child's age
- Where the child can be found
- The names and addresses of the child, parents or guardians
- The nature and extent of the child's alleged abuse
- The name and address of the person allegedly responsible for the abuse
- The name and address of the person making the report, if he or she so chooses to disclose this information
- Any other information that the person making the report believes may be helpful in protecting the child



## **Confidentiality of the Child Sexual Abuse Report and Immunity (KRS 620.050):**

A person who reports suspected child sexual abuse does not have to disclose his/her identity to the reporting agency for the report to be taken. If a person discloses his/her identity that information will be available to law enforcement, social services, prosecution, multidisciplinary teams and, if ordered by the court, the defense.

A report made in good faith, meaning there was reason to believe abuse occurred, shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. However, any person who knowingly makes a false report **AND** does so with malice shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.



## **Failure to Report (KRS 620.990):**



A person can be held liable and found guilty of a Class B misdemeanor should it be discovered he/she failed to report suspected abuse.

## The Role of the School Professional:



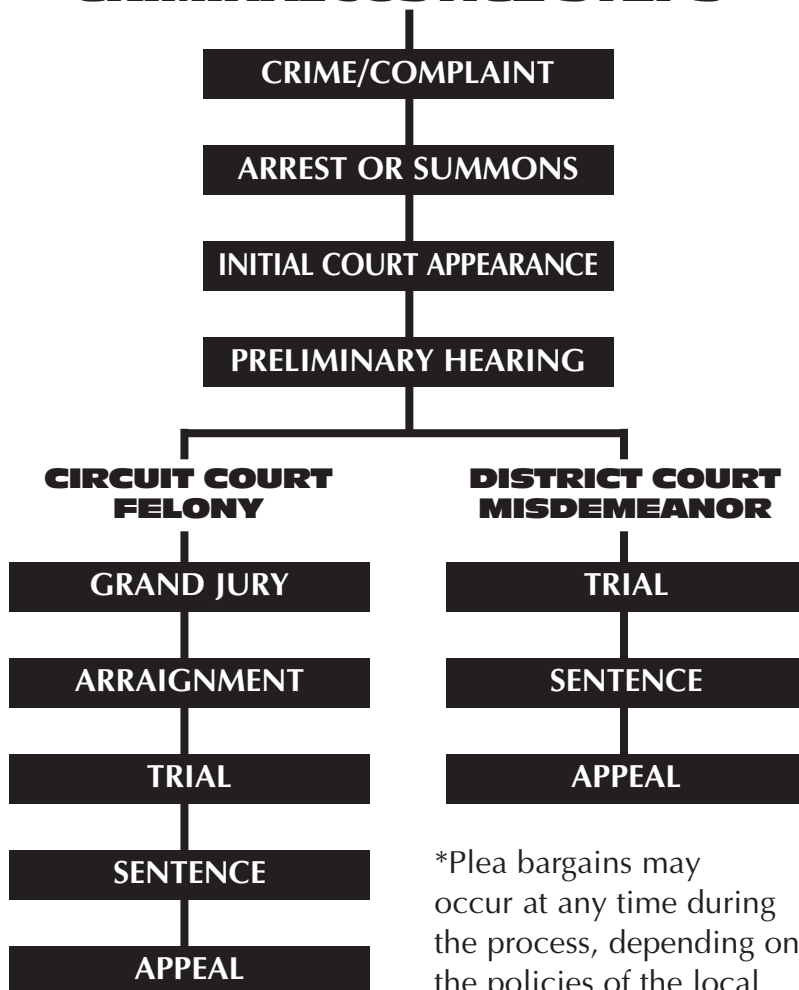
Teachers often ask the question, “How can I help?” Here are some suggestions:

- Believe it happened
- If you suspect, ask
- Listen to what they tell you
- Listen and watch them in class and at play
- Let children talk
- Know the children
- Provide a nurturing environment
- **REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE**

## Diagram of the Criminal Court Process

Not all cases of child sexual abuse are resolved through the court system. If they are, this is the process:

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE STEPS\*



\*Plea bargains may occur at any time during the process, depending on the policies of the local prosecutor or court.

## **Community Resources in Kentucky**

**Department for Community Based Services**

**Child Abuse Hotline**

**1-800-752-6200**

<http://cfc.state.ky.us/>

**Department of Education**

**Office of Council**

**502-564-4474**

<http://www.kde.state.ky.us/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Legal+and+Legislative+Services/default.htm>

**Department for Mental Health  
and Mental Retardation Services**

**Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Program**

**502-564-7610**

<http://mhmr.chs.ky.gov/>

**Governor's Office of Child Abuse and Domestic  
Violence Services**

**502-564-2611**

<http://gocadvs.ky.gov/>

**Guardian ad Litem Information**

**Department for Dependent Children Services**

**502-573-2350**

[http://www.kycourts.net/AOC/DCS/AOC\\_DCS\\_GALP.shtm](http://www.kycourts.net/AOC/DCS/AOC_DCS_GALP.shtm)

**Kentucky Association of Sexual  
Assault Programs**  
**502-226-2704**  
[www.kasap.org](http://www.kasap.org)

**Kentucky Association of  
Children's Advocacy Centers**  
**270-443-1440**  
<http://gov.state.ky.us/domviol/caclist.htm>

**Kentucky Community Based Services  
Ombudsman**  
**1-800-372-2973**  
<http://cfc.state.ky.us/faq/Ombudsman.asp>

**Office of the Attorney General  
Victim's Advocacy Division**  
**502-696-5312**  
**Hotline 1-800-372-2551**  
<http://www.kyattorneygeneral.com/>

**Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky**  
**1-800-CHILDREN**  
[www.pcaky.org](http://www.pcaky.org)

# Kentucky's Regional Resources

## Region 1 - Purchase

**Four Rivers Behavioral Health**  
1526 Lone Oak Road, Paducah, KY 42003-7901  
V/TTY CRISIS: (800) 592-3980

**Rape Crisis Center**  
PO Box 8506, Paducah, KY 42002-8506  
(800) 928-7273

**Child Watch Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.**  
1118 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 1262  
Paducah, KY 42002-1262, (270) 443-1440

**Region 2 - Pennyryle**  
**Pennyroyal Regional Mental Health**  
1507 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 614  
Hopkinsville, KY 42241-0614  
V/TTY CRISIS: (270) 881-9551, (877) 473-7766

**Sanctuary, Inc. Rape Crisis Center**  
PO Box 1165, Hopkinsville, KY 42241  
(800) 766-0000

**Pennyryle Children's Advocacy Center**  
409 E. 7th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240  
(270) 881-1111

**Region 3 - Green River**  
**River Valley Behavioral Health**  
P.O. Box 1637, Owensboro, KY 42302-1637  
V/TTY CRISIS: (800) 433-7291, (270) 684-9466

**New Beginnings Rape Crisis Center**  
PO Box 903, Owensboro, KY 42303-0903  
(800) 226-7273

**Northwest KY Regional Children's Advocacy Center**  
537 South Green Street  
Henderson, KY 42420, (270) 830-8262

**Region 4 - Barren River**  
**Lifeskills, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 6499, Bowling Green, KY 42102-6499  
V/TTY CRISIS: (888) 537-9202, (270) 783-9167

**Hope Harbor Rape Crisis Center**  
913 Broadway Avenue,  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
(800) 347-1848

**Barren River Area Children's Advocacy Center**  
103 E. 12th Street,  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
(270) 783-4357

## Region 5 - Lincoln Trail

**Communicare, Inc.**  
1311 N. Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, KY 42701  
CRISIS: (800) 641-4673, TTY CRISIS: (888) 782-8266

**Advocacy & Support Rape Crisis Center**  
PO Box 1537, Elizabethtown, KY 42702  
(877) 672-2124

**Lincoln Trail Children's Advocacy & Support Center**  
890 Rineyville Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701  
(270) 234-0577

## Region 6 - Seven Counties

**Seven Counties Services, Inc.**  
101 W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard  
Louisville, KY 40202  
V/TTY CRISIS: (888) 782-8266

**Center for Women & Families Rape Crisis Center**  
PO Box 2048, Louisville, KY40201-2048  
(502) 581-7273

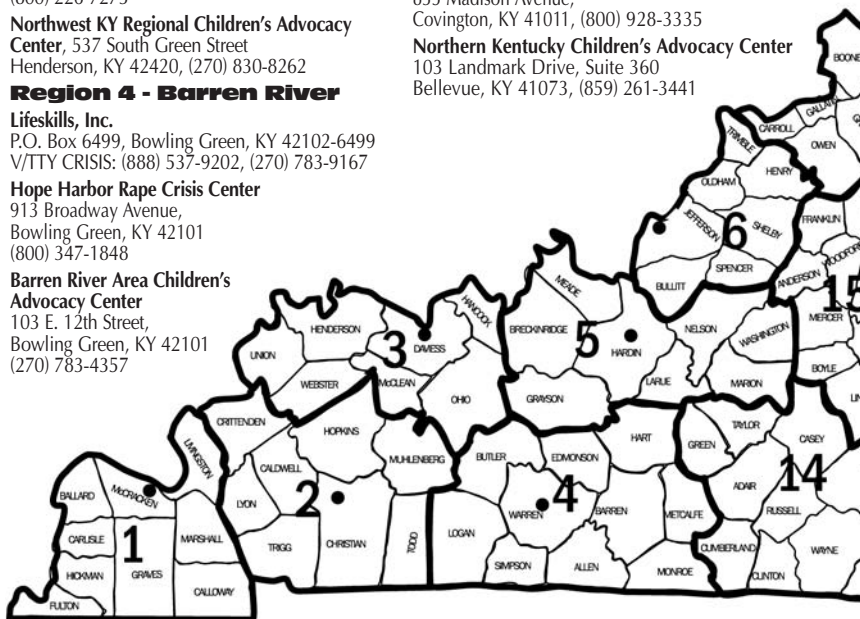
**Children First, Inc. Children's Advocacy Center**  
560-B S. 4th Street, Louisville, KY 40202  
(502) 584-6412

## Region 7 - N. Kentucky

**NorthKey Community Care**  
1201 S. Ft. Thomas Avenue, Ft. Thomas, KY 41075  
V/TTY CRISIS: (877) 889-1792

**Women's Crisis Center**  
835 Madison Avenue,  
Covington, KY 41011, (800) 928-3335

**Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center**  
103 Landmark Drive, Suite 360  
Bellevue, KY 41073, (859) 261-3441



**Region 8 - Buffalo Trace**

**Comprehend, Inc.**  
741 Kenton Station Road  
Maysville, KY 41056  
V/TTY CRISIS: (877) 852-1523

**Women's Crisis Center**  
835 Madison Avenue, Covington, KY 41011  
(800) 928-3335

**Buffalo Trace Children's Advocacy Center**  
P.O. Box 645, Maysville, KY 41056  
(606) 564-6985

**Region 9 - Gateway**

**Pathways, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 790, Ashland, KY 41105-0790  
V/TTY CRISIS: (800) 562-8909

**Pathways, Inc. Women's Crisis Center**  
201 - 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Ashland, KY 41101  
(800) 562-8909

**Gateway Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.**  
310 E. Main Street, Morehead, KY 40351  
(606) 780-7848

**Region 10 - FIVCO**

**Pathways, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 790, Ashland, KY 41105-0790  
V/TTY CRISIS: (800) 562-8909

**Pathways, Inc. Women's Crisis Center**  
201 - 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Ashland, KY 41101  
(800) 562-8909

**Hope's Place, Inc. Children's Advocacy Center**  
3142 Winchester Avenue  
Ashland, KY 41105-0007, (606) 325-4737

**Region 11 - Big Sandy**

**Mountain Comp. Care Center**  
150 South Front Avenue, Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
V/TTY CRISIS: (800) 422-1060

**Mountain Comp. Care Rape Crisis Center**  
150 South Front Avenue, Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(800) 422-1060

**Big Sandy Area Child Advocacy Center**  
(Judi's Place for Kids)  
106 Williamson Street, Pikeville, KY 41501  
(606) 437-7447

**Region 12 - Kentucky River**

**Kentucky River Community Care, Inc.**  
115 Rockwood Lane, Hazard, KY 41701  
V/TTY CRISIS: (800) 262-7491 or (800) 375-7273

**Kentucky River Community Care Women's Crisis Center**  
465 Cedar Street, Hazard, KY 41701  
(800) 375-7273

**Kentucky River Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.**  
(The Care Cottage), 465 Cedar Street  
Hazard, KY 41701, (606) 487-9173

**Region 13 - Cumb'd Valley**

**Cumberland River Comp. Care Ctr.**  
P.O. Box 568, Corbin, KY 40701  
V/TTY CRISIS: (606) 528-7010  
or call collect (606) 526-9598

**Cumberland River Comp. Care Women's Crisis Center**  
PO Box 568, Corbin, KY 40702  
(606) 528-7010 day  
(606) 523-9386 after hours

**Cumberland Valley Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.**  
1130 E. 4th Street, London, KY 40741  
(606) 878-9116

**Region 14 - Lake Cumberland**

**Adanta**  
72 Southland Drive, Somerset, KY 42501  
V/TTY CRISIS: (800) 633-5599

**Adanta Regional Victim Services Program Women's Crisis Center**  
259 Parkers Mill Road, Somerset, KY 42501  
(800) 633-5599

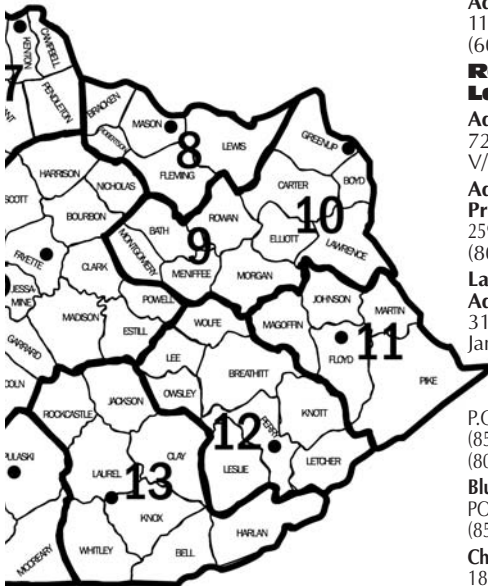
**Lake Cumberland Children's Advocacy Center**  
314 Monument Square, P.O. Box 4  
Jamestown, KY 42629, (270) 343-6922

**Region 15 - Bluegrass**

**Bluegrass Regional MH/MR Board, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 11428, Lexington, KY 40575  
(859) 253-2737 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)  
(800) 928-8000 (after 5 p.m.)

**Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center**  
PO Box 1603, Lexington, KY 40588  
(859) 253-2511

**Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass, Inc.**  
183 Walton Avenue, Lexington, KY 40508-2315  
(859) 225-5437





# Post Map

## **Post 1, Mayfield (Graves Co.)**

8366 State Rt. 45  
North Hickory, KY 42051  
270-856-3721

## **Post 2, Madisonville (Hopkins Co.)**

P.O. Box 1025  
Nortonville, KY 42442  
270-676-3313

## **Post 3, Bowling Green (Warren Co.)**

P.O. Box 68  
Bowling Green, KY 42102  
270-782-2010

## **Post 4, Elizabethtown (Hardin Co.)**

P.O. Box 1297  
Elizabethtown, KY 42702  
270-766-5078

## **Post 5, Campbellsburg (Henry Co.)**

160 Citation Lane  
Campbellsburg, KY 40011  
502-532-6363

## **Post 12, Frankfort (Franklin Co.)**

1250 Louisville Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
502-227-2221

## **Post 15, Columbia (Adair Co.)**

P.O. Box 160  
Columbia, KY 42728  
270-384-4796

## **Post 16, Henderson (Henderson Co.)**

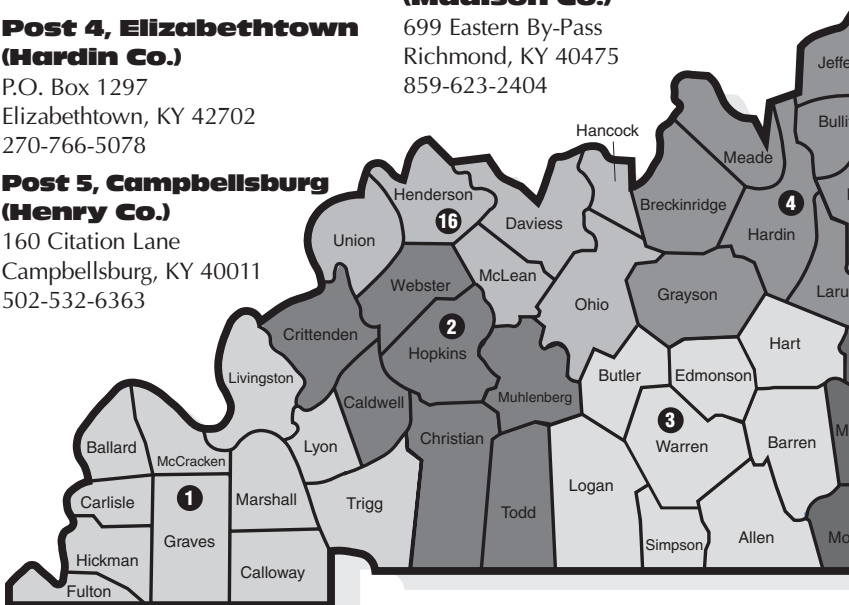
P.O. Box 693  
Henderson, KY 4241  
270-826-3312

## **Post 6, Dry Ridge (Grant Co.)**

4265 U.S. 25  
Dry Ridge, KY 41035  
859-428-1212

## **Post 7, Richmond (Madison Co.)**

699 Eastern By-Pass  
Richmond, KY 40475  
859-623-2404



**Post 8, Morehead  
(Rowan Co.)**

1595 Flemingsburg Road  
Morehead, KY 40351  
606-784-4127

**Post 9, Pikeville  
(Pike Co.)**

P.O. Box 2528  
Pikeville, KY 41502  
606-433-7711

**Post 10, Harlan  
(Harlan Co.)**

3319 South U.S. 421  
Harlan, KY 40831  
606-573-3131

**Post 11, London  
(Laurel Co.)**

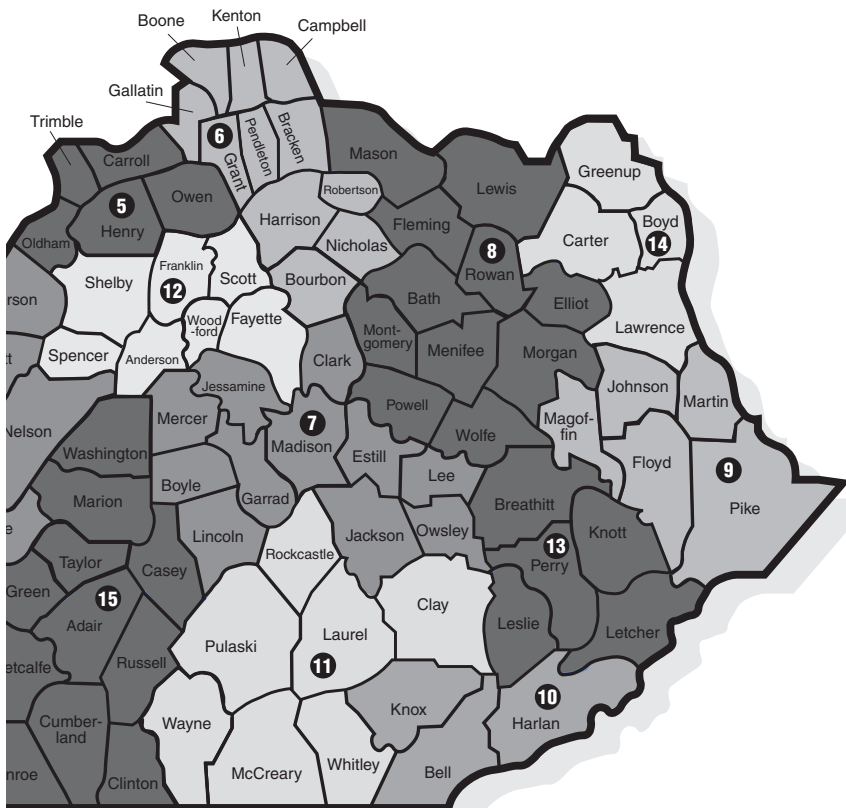
11 State Police Road  
London, KY 40741  
606-878-6622

**Post 13, Hazard  
(Perry Co.)**

1655 North Main Street  
Hazard, KY 41701  
606-435-6069

**Post 14, Ashland  
(Boyd Co.)**

5975 State Rt. 60  
Ashland, KY 41102  
606-928-6421



# Helping Kentucky's Kids...

It's easy, and it's tax deductible

## The Child Victims' Trust Fund Tax Refund Check-off

Just look for this box on your  
Kentucky State Income Tax Form

*See instructions for a detailed description on funds*

11. a	<b>Nature and Wildlife Fund Contribution</b>	<i>(Enter amount checked)</i>	0	0
	\$2	\$5	\$10	Other _____
b	<b>Child Victims' Trust Fund Contribution</b>	<i>(Enter amount checked)</i>	0	0
	\$2	\$4	Other _____	
c	<b>Bluegrass State Games and U.S. Olympic Committee Fund Contribution</b>		0	0
d	<b>Veterans' Program Trust Fund Contribution</b>		0	0



Contributions to this fund finance local programs designed to prevent the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. This fund is administered through the Attorney General's Office and relies solely on the tax deductible contributions made by interested citizens. Contributions may also be made directly to the Child Victims' Trust Fund, c/o Kentucky Attorney General, Victims Advocacy Division, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200, Frankfort, KY 40601. For more information, call (502) 696-5312.



# The Kentucky license plate that works for kids



Proceeds from the "I CARE ABOUT KIDS" license plate go to the Child Victims' Trust Fund for helping Kentucky's most vulnerable children - those who are victims of sexual abuse. Proceeds from each purchase assist in funding child sexual abuse prevention programs, and the part of child sexual abuse medical exams not covered by private insurance or Medicaid.

To purchase this plate, please contact your local county clerk. For more information about the Child Victims' Trust Fund, call the Attorney General's Office (502) 696-5312.



## Kentucky cares about kids and it shows...

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or in the provision of services. Please notify OAG / ADA Title VI Coordinator, Room 34, Capital Building, Frankfort, KY 40601, (502) 696-5300 at any time to report discrimination. OAG office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.