

## **PHYSICAL BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS**

This means touching too much or touching in ways that most adults would not touch a child. Examples include:

- Roughhousing or wrestling
- Tickling
- Encouraging children to jump on adults
- Accidentally touching private areas
- Holding or hugging when the child resists or hugging too much
- Being alone with a child or leading them off to secluded areas

## **EMOTIONAL BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS**

This means treating a relationship with a child as if it were a romantic or intimate relationship with an adult. Examples include:

- Spending too much time with a child or preferring the company of children over individuals one's own age
- Getting involved in too many of the child's activities
- Acting too possessive of the child
- Calling or e-mailing the child too often

## **BEHAVIORAL BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS**

This means allowing a child to be involved in activities that his or her parents would not allow the child to do. Examples include:

- Mocking the beliefs of a child's parents
- Allowing a child to do things against the wishes of their parents
- Offering minors cigarettes, alcohol or drugs
- Allowing children to view pornography or visit inappropriate internet sites
- Giving children gifts without the parent's permission
- Asking minors to keep secrets from their parents
- Showing favoritism towards certain children.

**If you suspect child abuse  
Contact the Department of  
Health and Social Service's  
24 hour hotline at:  
907-465-1650**

### **From the Bishop's Office Announcement on Sexual Abuse of Children**

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Juneau deplores the abuse of children and is committed to fully investigating any allegations of abuse by church personnel.

The Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to receive such reports.

If you believe that you have been harmed in this way please call:

Ms. Roberta Izzard  
**Child Protection Officer/  
Victim Assistance Coordinator**  
**907-586-2227 x25**  
**robbiei@gci.net**

**Protecting Our Children:  
Recognizing the Signs of Sexual**



*Diocese of Juneau*

*415 Sixth St., Suite 300  
Juneau, AK 99801*

## What Does A Sexual Predator Look Like?

**MYTH**— A predator is a single man easily identified by his “seedy” looks and unshaven appearance, visibly insane or mentally retarded.

**FACT**— Realistically, a sexual predator may be a close relative, a friend, or acquaintance rather than a stranger; an older person or a youth; wealthy or poor; gay or straight; literate or illiterate; religious or non-religious; a professional, white or blue collar, or an unemployed worker; a person with a criminal record or one with no offense history at all.

- The majority of sexual predators are males. The great majority of victims are females.
- The average molester of girls will abuse 50 girls before being caught or convicted and the average molester of boys will abuse 150 boys before being convicted.
- Only a minority of convicted sexual predators (fewer than 1/3) can be classified as pedophiles (people with a permanent sexual interest in children).
- Sexual abuse and exploitation have different motivational roots for different people. The behavior may range from an expression of closeness to an expression of aggression.

### Three offender types

Sexual predators can be broken down into three main types:

#### Type 1— The Preferential Offender

The preferential offender is one who prefers to have a child as a social, romantic or sexual partner. They seek out opportunities to gain access to children through jobs, volunteer work, and social events.



#### Type 2— The Situational Offender

The situational offender does not necessarily prefer children, but offends under certain circumstances. The offense usually occurs during a difficult time in his or her life or they may be more likely to offend when intoxicated, depressed or anxious.

#### Type 3— The Indiscriminant Offender

The indiscriminant offender will prey on any available vulnerable person: children, adults with mental challenges, or an elderly person. They are aroused more by the pain and suffering of the victim than by the physical attributes of the victim.

### 10 COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF A PREDATOR

1. **Refusal to take responsibility for his or her actions and blames others or circumstances for their failures:**  
Those who prey on the innocent usually define themselves as “victims.”
2. **A sense of entitlement:**  
They believe that they have been wronged in some way, and therefore deserve to get what they need regardless of others.
3. **Low self-esteem:**  
Though predators may appear confident, self-assured, and entitled, this is merely a public image to hide from view a weak and poor sense of self.
4. **A need for power and control:**  
While a certain need of control is common in almost everyone, most adults learn to accept those situations they cannot change. Healthy adults do not try to rule others, instead, they respect others’ need for autonomy.
5. **A lack of empathy:**  
Empathy requires a suspension of one’s own needs and emotions to truly understand another person’s feelings. A lack of empathy sets the stage for objectification of others.

6. **An inability to form intimate relationships with adults:**  
A large percentage of predators have a series of unsuccessful relationships that end after years of fighting, miscommunication and lack of intimacy.
7. **A history of abuse:**  
Since the number one predictor of child abuse is a history of past abuse, it is critical that you know some information about the adults who are interacting with your child.
8. **A troubled childhood:**  
Individuals whose parents engage in a bitter divorce, live in a home where abuse and neglect are the norm, and are exposed to substance abuse, poverty and crime are at risk for developing predatory behavior.
9. **Deviant sexual behavior and attitudes:**  
Not all sexual predators are pedophiles; some individuals may abuse for situational reasons or for power over a child.
10. **History of drug or alcohol abuse:**  
The misuse of drugs or alcohol does not cause child sexual abuse and not every predator is a substance abuser. However, the use of drugs or alcohol can lessen a person’s inhibitions.

**Just because a person has one or two of these characteristics does not mean they are a sexual predator. However, we should be more watchful of their activity with children.**

### Beware of boundary violations!

As sexual predators choose their victims they slowly begin to violate boundaries as a way of preparing their victims for further abuse and to test the awareness of those responsible for caring for the victim. A sexual predator may take years to groom their victim and the fami-