



Green Bear Guidelines

Perpetrator Characteristics



Perpetrators in positions of authority (teacher, physician, clergy, youth/scout leader) use various strategies to trap students. Some examples include:

- Lies
- Isolation
- Quid Pro Quo
- Targeting vulnerable or marginal students who are grateful for the attention

Perpetrators who abuse in leadership positions are often someone the students most like and the parents most trust.

Grooming

Perpetrators are often professionally accomplished and celebrated. Because of this, it is difficult for community members to acknowledge allegations because of the perpetrator's "outstanding community service." A perpetrator who abuses children will not only groom the child, but the family and entire community.

In most cases, a perpetrator who abuses children will groom a child before abusing them. The purposes of grooming include:

- Testing the ability to maintain secrets
- Desensitizing the child through progressive sexual behavior
- Providing the child with experiences that are valuable that the child doesn't want to lose
- Learning information that will discredit the child
- Gaining approval from parents

Protect Your Child from Grooming

- Know who your child spends time with - and where
- Teach children that respect does not mean blind obedience to adults and authority
- Spend time with your child so they will not need it from another adult. *The lonely child, who is not listened to at home, makes a perfect target for a perpetrator.*
- If abuse is suspected, contact Missouri's Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738.

For more information contact Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence at 573.332.1900 or log on to www.greenbearmo.org or www.semonasv.org.