

Working Together

A Team Effort



CHILD ADVOCACY
PUBLICATIONS

Elizabeth D. Drake, M.Ed., Anne E. Gilroy and Thomas H. Roane, M.A.

Working Together

A Team Effort

CHILD ADVOCACY

PUBLICATIONS

Elizabeth D. Drake, M.Ed.

Anne E. Gilroy

Thomas H. Roane, M.A.

CHILD ADVOCACY PUBLICATIONS

Copyright ©1983 by Elizabeth D. Drake and Anne E. Gilroy

All photos are copyright of the respective owners.
All rights reserved including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form.

Revised editions © 1988, 1990, 2008

Printed in the United States of America
US Copyright TX 1-954-253

For more information about this book or our other resources, please visit our website:
www.childadvocacypub.com



6825 NW 18th Drive • Gainesville, FL 32653-1613
352-372-2534 • 352-376-8130 fax

www.childadvocacypub.com



This book is for you.

It was written for boys who are victims of sexual abuse. You were brave to tell what happened to you. Now you can get help to understand your feelings about the sexual abuse.

We know that sexual abuse is hard to talk about. You have many questions and fears that are difficult to put into words. You aren't alone.

There are many adults you can trust who will work together with you and your family now. They are people who know about sexual abuse and understand the problems it causes. They have helped other boys with the problem of sexual abuse. Now they will work to help you.

Sometimes getting help is confusing. Sometimes it even seems frightening. This book was written so you would know what to expect as you work to get over what happened. We wrote *Working Together* to guide you, answer your questions, and to give you courage.

Elizabeth D. Drake
Anne E. Gilroy
Thomas H. Roane

The secret is out...what now?

Now that the secret is out, a big part of the problem is over for you. It is a relief for you to stop keeping such a difficult secret.

But there is more to do so you and your family can understand how this happened. There are many people who are going to work to help you and your family. You need to know what these people will do for you.

- ❖ *They will believe you.*
- ❖ They will protect you if someone has threatened you.
- ❖ They will be sure you and other boys and girls are safe from the abuser.
- ❖ They will help you and your family understand sexual abuse and the anger you feel.

The people working with you know this problem is hard to talk about. They understand you don't want anyone to know about it unless they need to.

You are brave to talk about what happened to you. And you are smart to know that now you can get help from adults you can trust.



CHILD ADVOCACY

PUBLICATIONS

What is sexual abuse?

The law says that any time an adult or teenager uses a child in a sexual way, it is *sexual abuse*.

Sexual abuse may be gentle touching or it may be painful. Clothes may be on or off. It may happen one time or many times. Sometimes it is taking sexual pictures or looking at them. All of this is sexual abuse.

The law says that adults cannot use children for sex. It says that children are too young to give permission to adults for any sexual activity. Some men and women break this law and use children in a sexual way. This happens to boys and it happens to girls of all different ages.

It is never OK for an adult to use a child for sex. Laws against sexual abuse were made to protect children, and the person who abused you broke the law.

CHILD ADVOCACY
PUBLICATIONS

Who has this problem?

Many families face this problem. There are other kids in your school who are keeping the same secret. Experts believe that one out of five girls and one out of ten boys need help with the problem of sexual abuse.

An abuser can be an adult man or woman, or sometimes an older boy or girl. Sometimes sexual abusers are strangers. But most of the time the sexual abuser is an adult man who knows the child he decides to use for sex.

Both boys and girls find it hard to tell about any kind of sexual abuse. And adults sometimes find it hard to listen. But more and more children are able to talk about it. And because, like you, they are able to talk about it, adults have learned how to help.

CHILD ADVOCACY
PUBLICATIONS

Getting help

What has happened to you may bother you in many different ways. You may have nightmares. You may feel like crying and not know why. You may be afraid of things or people and not understand why. You may not enjoy being in school or being with your friends. You may even be so angry that you feel like throwing things or hurting someone. These are all normal feelings for a boy facing a crisis.

There are many boys who have to get through difficult problems. Some have to deal with the death of a brother or sister. Others may have to work to recover from a terrible injury or accident. Some boys may have a parent who is very sick. Each of these is a crisis. So is *sexual abuse*.

Working together with adults who know how to help you is important in getting through the crisis of sexual abuse.

- ❖ Getting help means talking to someone who can answer your questions about sex and about adults who sexually abuse boys.
- ❖ Getting help means learning that it's OK to be angry about the sexual abuse.
- ❖ Getting help means you and your parents will learn to talk to one another about important things.
- ❖ Getting help means learning that you can get through this crisis and be OK.



It's not your fault

What happened is not your fault. There is nothing wrong with you or different about you that made it happen. A boy may feel he did or said something to give the man the idea. *This is not true.* The person who abused you is responsible for what he did.

Some people may ask, "Why did you let it happen?" They don't understand. Sometimes older boys are asked, "Why didn't you fight back?" People who say this just don't understand.

A man who sexually abuses boys knows lots of ways to make it happen. He may have threatened you. He may have scared you. He may have said you would get into trouble if you told.

The abuser may have told you that no one would believe you if you tried to tell on him, or he may have given you gifts and pretended to be a good friend. An abuser knows that children wonder about sex and he may have offered to "teach" you.

It is very important to understand that no matter how it happened or what you said or did, it was not your fault. It doesn't matter if it was one time or many times. The abuser made it happen.

The sexual abuse is not your fault, but it is your job to work to help yourself now.

"He said we would both get in trouble."

CONTINUED...
IN ORIGINAL BOOK,
15 MORE PAGES WILL FOLLOW.