

The Child Protection Office of ISKCON North America

We strive to protect children from abuse and neglect through educational training for both adults and children. Our programs include information on ways to keep children safe, how to identify abuse and neglect and what to do when child abuse occurs. We guide ISKCON Centers and Schools across North America in child protection policy, as well as assist the ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection.



To Report a Past or Present Concern of Child Abuse:

Nationwide:

1-800-4-A-CHILD

Childhelp.org

or call your local Social Services
aka Child Protective Services

You can also report to your local
ISKCON Child Protection Team or

Child Protection Office

ISKCON North America

Phone: (352) 575-0780

Email: SafeTemple@yahoo.com

'These children are given to us by Krishna, they are Vaisnavas and we must be very careful to protect them. These are not ordinary children, they are Vaikuntha children, and we are very fortunate we can give them a chance to advance further in Krishna consciousness. That is a very great responsibility, do not neglect it or be confused. Your duty is very clear.

Hoping this will meet you in good health. Your ever well-wisher,

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami

Letter July 30, 1972'



Support these efforts to ensure
our communities
are safe for children.

There are many ways you can help!

Contribute

Volunteer

Donate

To donate and to learn more
visit **www.SafeTemple.org**



Child Protection Office
ISKCON NORTH AMERICA

Protecting Children

~ It Takes a Village ~



**You Make a Difference
Take Part Today**

www.SafeTemple.org

Email: SafeTemple@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 1438, Alachua, FL 32616

(352) 575-0780

FACTS:

- Child abuse occurs in every culture, class and religion
- The abuser is likely to be a trusted person in the child's life
- 1 in 10 children get sexually abused before they turn 18 years old
- 78% of child abuse is neglect
- Children need adults who know what to look for and what to do

Types of Child Abuse:

Neglect: Failure to provide for a child's basic needs – including physical, educational and emotional.

Physical abuse: Non-accidental physical injury caused by a parent or caregiver, including hitting, kicking, shaking, burning or harming a child.

Sexual abuse: When a child is coerced, persuaded, seduced, or entrapped verbally or physically, into sexual acts with an adult or an older or more powerful youth.

Emotional/Psychological Abuse:

Any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth; conveying to the child that they are worthless, flawed, unwanted, unloved, or only of value to meet another person's needs.

How to respond if someone tells you they have been abused:

1. Believe Them–Let Them Talk!
Do not over question them, especially children. Leave that to trained professionals.
2. Remain Calm, Be Reassuring–
Be careful to refrain from making promises you cannot keep, such as “I will make sure this never happens again.”
Instead, give a reply such as “I am glad you told me. I will do my best to help you.”
3. Assure Them That It Is Not Their Fault - It is the fault of the person who harmed them
4. Safety of Children is Priority -
Make sure the child is out of danger of being harmed again
5. Obtain Appropriate Help–
medical, legal, emotional
6. Seek Support for Yourself -
Confide in someone you trust

“Please also take care of the children. They are our future hopes . . .”

Srila Prabhupada, Letter Nov. 7, 1969

Increase Child Protection in Your Temple/Community

Report concern of abuse or neglect to the proper legal authorities.

Maintain a Child Protection Team.

Implement screening procedures for employees, volunteers and residents.

Institute policies that encourage child protection (see examples below).

Have regular child abuse prevention education for your community members, including adults & youth.

Ensure victims get help & counseling.

Policies that Encourage Child Safety

- Children always supervised by a designated adult while at the temple
- Children only allowed in temple ashrams with a parent
- Two adults present when supervising children
- All staff who have contact with children should be screened, have child abuse awareness training, & know temple/ISKCON policies
- Reduce risk by increasing transparency