

FIRST RESPONSE

A GUIDE FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD ABUSE



Minimal Facts

Obtain the minimal facts required to determine safety. "Who, What, When, Where"
 "Tell me more about..."

Examples of a FIRST response

Find a safe location	Talk to the child alone; make sure they know they are not in trouble
Identify your concerns	"I noticed a lot of bruising on your body and I'm concerned about where the bruises came from. Tell me more about the bruises." "This is a pretty big cut. What happened?"
Rapport	Listen! Ask open ended questions. Answer any questions the child may have to the best of your ability and reach out to the Child Abuse team if you do not know the answer!
Seek Details	Who, what, when, where "You told me someone touched you. Where did they touch you? Who touched you? When did that happen?" "You said someone was bothering you. Tell me about them bothering you." "Who is bothering you?" "What does bothering mean?" "Where did this happen?" "Where does that person live?"
Tell Hotline/Law Enforcement	Alaska State Troopers: 907-543-2294 Bethel Police Department: 907-543-3781 Office of Children's Services: Report Child Abuse@alaska.gov or 1-800-478-4444

Talk to kids about what happens next!

"I am going to make a report to law enforcement so that they can help keep you safe. They will likely bring you back to Bethel to talk to someone whose job it is to listen to kids when things like this happen to them. You can tell that person all about what we talked about today or anything else you think it's important for them to know. Do you have any questions for me about this?"

ChildAbuse@ykhc.org or TigerText "ChildAbuse-Consult"