What You Can Do as a Parent - Steps to Take If You Find Out Your Child is Being Sexually Abused - 親だからできること ~字どもの性的虐待がわかってから~

Introduction

はじめに

Your child has been the victim of sexual abuse, and both you and your child are suffering greatly as a result. The most valuable thing for your child now is family members who can watch over and protect him or her.

We have made this pamphlet in order to help keep you calm amidst the turmoil you are experiencing and ease your feelings of anxiety and uncertainty. We hope the information provided herein will be useful in protecting your child and achieving a safe and secure life once again.

* For simplicity's sake, we have positioned the father as the perpetrator of the crime (abuser) in this pamphlet. This does not imply that only fathers are abusive; the mother may be the abuser in your situation.

あなたは、子どもが性的虐待の被害を受けたことを知りました。子どももあなたも、大変苦しんでいると思います。子どもを守る立場にいる家族の存在こそが、子どもにとってかけがえのない存在になります。

このパンフレットは、あなたの混乱している気持ちを歩しでも整理し、常安を報らげるために作りました。字どもを替り、管び姿心して暮らすために利用していただければいです。

※加書者は多様ですが、茶文では、加書者(蘆待者)を交親と仮定しています。

1 Frequently Asked Questions (Q&A)

I よくある質問 Q&A

- Q: Why didn't my child tell me what was happening?
- Q: なぜ、子どもは 私 に告白しなかったのですか。
- A: This may come as a surprise to some, but many children often hesitate to tell their mother when their father is being abusive.

The father may be pressuring the child to keep the sexual abuse a secret, telling the child that "if you tell mom about this, our family will be torn apart, so keep it to yourself." When a child has been ensnared by the father in this way, the child may find themself unable to tell their mother.

- Q: As a mother, what should I do?
- Q: 母親として何をすればいいですか。
- A: There are certain things you can do precisely because you are the child's mother:
 - (1) Take what your child tells you as the truth
 - (2) Think about steps you can take to protect your child
 - (3) Work together with a Child Consultation Center
 - (4) Learn about systems and measures in place to ensure a safe living situation for you and your child and actively consult with a specialist(s)
 - You are not alone, so don't feel that you have to handle everything on your own—try to envision a future where this problem has been solved!
- A: 母親だからこそできることがあります。
 - (1) 子どもの話を真実として受け止める。
 - (2) 子どもを守るためにどうしたらよいか考える。
 - (3) 児童相談所と協力する。
 - (4) 子どもと安全に暮らすための制度を知り、専門家に積極的に聞く。
 - (5) 問題を一人で抱えこまない。責任を一人で背負わない。解決できている未来を見つめる。

2 Your Child's Mental and Physical Health

2 子どもの心と体のこと

- Q: My child is his/her usual energetic self and seems to be fine. What are some of the possible symptoms of psychological trauma?
- Q: 子どもは元気で何事もなかったように過ごしています。心の傷は、どんな症状として現れますか?
- A: In some cases, the child may not exhibit problematic or disruptive symptoms during the period of abuse. They may not, in fact, give any indication at all that they are being abused. However, post-traumatic symptoms may occur after some time has passed, such as inability to sleep, feelings of insecurity, sudden recollections of disgusting or disturbing memories, a sense of distraction or lack of focus, recalling the abuse when in certain locations, avoiding people, and others. Small children may engage in actions such as touching or playing with their sexual organs. Symptoms vary from person to person.
- Q: What kind of emotional support can I provide for my child?
- Q: 子どもの心のケアはどうしたらよいですか。
- A: Children who have suffered sexual abuse may have a reduce sense of self-worth, and some children may feel dirty or defiled. Additionally, the child may blame themself for the sexual abuse. Possible things to tell them include "you are not dirty/defiled," "you are just as good as other children," "it wasn't your fault" and "you are an important and precious person to me." Make sure to convey these things with your general attitude and actions in addition to your words.

If you are concerned about any symptoms or behavior—no matter how small—consult with a Child Consultation Center, medical institution and/or other relevant facility.

- A: 性的虐待を受けた子どもは、自分自身を大切に思う気持ちが低下しているときがあります。自分が汚れたと感じることがあります。また自分のせいで性的虐待がおきたと思うこともあります。「あなたは汚れていない。」「他の子どもたちと何も変わらない。」「あなたのせいじゃない。」「あなたはかけがえのない大切な存在です。」ということを言葉として伝え、態度、行動にして示してください。

 いさなことでも、心配な症状は児童相談所や医療機関等に聞いてください。
- Q: How should I talk to my child about the sexual abuse they suffered?
- Q: 性的虐待のことは、子どもとどのように話すのがよいですか。
- A: There is no single right way to do this. Here is an example of what you could say: "Thank you for being brave enough to tell me about it. I'm sorry I didn't notice what was happening to you. Please remember that you didn't do anything wrong, and it's not your fault. I will try harder to protect you." Make sure your child knows that, no matter what happens, it is important that they talk to you about it.
- Q: How should I treat my child on a day-to-day basis as we move forward?
- Q: 普段の生活で、どのように子どもと接すればよいですか。
- A: Your child will most likely experienced a flood of emotions that were previous suppressed, and in response may become excessively dependent on you or may act belligerently. They may also express a wide variety of uncertainties or fears, and may become scared of being alone. Respond in a practical manner appropriate to the situation regarding your child's overdependence and uncertainties. If they become verbally or physically hostile, ask about their feelings and listen carefully to what they tell you.

- Q: I want us to forget what happened and start over. Is it okay to urge my child to just forget what happened?
- Q: できるなら全部忘れてやり直したいと思います。子どもに早く忘れるようにと言ってもいいですか?
- A: Sexual abuse leaves disturbing thoughts and memories behind in the minds of both the child and the non-abusive parent. It is an experience that cannot be erased by simply trying to forget it, and even if you attempt to suppress such memories, they will come flooding back at unexpected times. making it hard for your child to enjoy their life.

You are trying to protect your child and come to terms with the abuse they suffered, which is why it is important now more than ever to seek the help of a qualified professional as you attempt to deal

with the reality of what happened.

ませ、 思わぬところで記憶がよみがえり、子どもに生きにくさを生じさせます。 あなたは子どもを守り、被害に向き合おうとしています。だからこそ、専門家の支援を受けながら現実に向き合うことが大切なのです。

- Q: Is it possible for children to recover from the trauma of sexual abuse?
- Q: 性的虐待のトラウマから子どもは回復できますか?
- A: The mental and physical effects of sexual abuse on a child are undoubtedly severe, and your child will likely encounter a number of difficulties and challenges as they try to move forward with their life. But rest assured that we personally know many children and mothers who have managed to recover from this type of tragedy.

Even though it won't be easy, we hope you will try your best to help your child recover and create a

happy future together.

せいてきぎゃくたい こ しんしん あた れいきょう けっ かる きき こんなん 性的虐待が子どもの心身に与えた影響は決して軽くはありません。この先、たくさんの困難があるかもしれません。しかし、回復した子どもと母親を ^{btに} 私たちはたくさん知っています。

けっ かんたん みち 決して簡単な道のりではないかもしれませんが、あなたの大切な子どもが回復していく未来を一緒に描いていきましょう。

Regarding the Abusive Parent

- かがいしゃ加害者のこと
- Q: My husband says that he feels bad for what he did and wants to try living together again as a family. What should I do?
- 夫は反省してもう一度やり直したいと言っています。
- A: Some of your family members, friends and acquaintances may tell you to forgive your husband: however, just because the father feels bad for what he did doesn't guarantee that your child will be safe if he is still around. What your husband did cannot be undone or ignored, and even if he promises to never do it again, making your child live with him is the same as exposing the child to abuse all over again.

A: 周りの親族や友人、知人も許してあげたらと言うかもしれません。しかし、加害者が反省することと子どもの安全を確保することは別です。あなたの 夫の行為は取り返しのつかない行為だったと思います。たとえ「もう二度としない」と言っても、子どもが加害者と一緒に暮らすことは、 再 び被害を

受けるに等しいことではないでしょうか。

- Q: I am also being abused by my husband, and I'm worried about receiving threatening phone calls and messages, and about him stalking me. What should I do?
- Q: 私も夫から暴力を受けています。メールや電話で脅されたり、つきまとわれるのが心配です。
- A: Prefectural and municipal contact points are available for people suffering abuse from their spouses. Systems and measures are in place to protect both you and your child, so please contact one of these facilities.
- 配偶者暴力の相談は県や市町村に窓口があります。あなたと子どもを守る制度がありますので聞いてください。
- Q: I am considering divorce, but my spouse is uncooperative. What should I do?
- 離婚を考えています。しかし、相手が了承してくれるかわかりません。
- A: Free legal consultations are available. It is important to consult with a lawyer or other such specialist rather than trying to take this on by yourself.
- 無料の法律相談もあります。一人で悩まず、弁護士などの専門家に聞いてみることが大切です。



- Q: I want to press charges against my husband. What should I do?
- Q: 夫を警察に訴えたいと思います。
- A: In order to take legal action, you and your child will need to undergo questioning by a police officer, public prosecutor or other such officer, after which the case will be taken to court. The staff at the Child Consultation Center will work together with other relevant facilities in order to complete questioning in as few sessions as possible and take other such measures to reduce stress on your child.

We can also arrange for you to talk with a lawyer in order to better understand what types of questioning, court proceedings and so forth your child can expect to encounter as you proceed with

legal action.

A: 告訴をすると、警察や検察官による事情聴取を受け、裁判へと進みます。児童相談所では、なるべく子どもの負担が減るよう、関係機関と連携している事情聴取の回数を減らすなどの配慮を働きかけていきます。

まいりましまいます。
ながら事情聴取の回数を減らすなどの配慮を働きかけていきます。
ことするうだんじまします。
また、児童相談所は、子どもがこれから体験する事情聴取や裁判などの法的な手続きについて、弁護士から説明を受ける機会を提供することもできます。

4 Moving Forward With Your Life

- 4 これからの生活について
- Q: If I get a divorce, I will have trouble making ends meet financially. What can I do?
- Q: 離婚すると経済的に苦しくなります。
- A: Financial problems can be quite severe following divorce.
 You should consult with your local municipal/ward office to find out what types of financial support are available.
- Q: How much information should I give my child's school regarding this situation?
- Q: 子どもが通う学校にどこまで話す必要がありますか?
- A: Although this varies depending on your individual circumstances, it is important to tell a limited group of teachers about what happened in order to protect your child from the abuser and ensure proper consideration your child's needs at school. School staff are required to protect your secret, meaning that they will not tell any other children or families about what has happened.

る。 ことょう ことょう つた こう かがいしゃ まも こう さまざま はいりょ かき せんせい じじょう つた たいせつ という できます はいりょ かき できます はいりょ かき でいる 一般 という ことが大切で かっこう ひみっ まも ぎ も ひみっ ほか こ はか かてい すっこう ひみっ まも ぎ も ひみっ ほか こ はか かてい す。 学校には秘密を守る義務があります。 秘密が他の子どもや他の家庭にわかることはありません。

5 Child Consultation Centers

- 5 児童科談所について
- Q: Why do Child Consultation Centers work with people like me?
- Q: なぜ、児童相談所は私たちにかかわるのですか。
- A: It is our responsibility to protect children. Moreover, we want to work together with you in order to make sure that children and their families can achieve happy lives.
- A: 私たちは、子どもを守る責務があります。そして、児童相談所は、あなたと協力して子どもたち、ご家族の幸せを築いていきたいと思っています。

