

# ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION SERIES: TAKING A STAND FOR SAFETY THROUGH ADULT RESPONSIBILITY



Take responsibility to protect vulnerable people from sexual violence by:

1. Understanding the difference between sex offenders and child molesters who are either “Groomers” or “Grabbers”
2. Understand that “Groomers” access victims through:
  - Lies
  - Secrecy
  - Trust
3. Understand, observe and question the “Groomer” profile:
  - Too helpful
  - Too private
  - Too attentive to children or other vulnerable individuals
  - Too touchy/physical with children or other vulnerable individuals
  - Too involved with image management (looking good to you)
  - Too one-sided in relationships (always giving – never taking)
  - Too opportunistic
  - Too superficial
  - Too prone to violate boundaries of personal space and privacy
  - Too aggressive when questioned or confronted about behaviors
  - Too quick to drop “friendships” when children grow older or vulnerable individuals become less accessible
  - All together too charming
  - Too good to be true
4. Understand that when questioned or confronted a “Groomer” will:
  - Have most likely already been lying to everyone about everything
  - Lie or at the most admit to small errors in judgment
  - Display phony remorse or are remorseful but are unable to sustain that remorse
  - Attempt to create a collegial relationship with those questioning him or her
  - Begin to get caught in the inconsistencies of their lies
  - Have a rehearsed speech to avoid or address the inconsistencies
  - Provide great detail than needed to respond to a specific question. The details will also distract and sidetrack the questioning
  - Go on the offensive; forcing the questioner to become defensive
5. Understand how suspicions and information about “Groomers” remains buried by:
  - Never being reported
  - Being reported but ignored, discounted or discredited
  - Information being suppressed to protect the reputation of the “offender” and/or of the organization/institution
6. Understand that when observations or disclosures/reports occur community alliances, in combination with reporting authorities, become essential. No one should or could ever tackle this situation alone.

Understand that sex offenders eventually return to communities and that protecting children and vulnerable individuals requires new levels of cooperation between adults, community organizations, police, corrections, faith communities, schools, youth service providers, and beyond.

If you are in need of more information or assistance, please call Sexual Assault Resource Line at 1.888.99VOICE

Information taken from, *The Socially Skilled Child Molester: Differing the Guilty from the Falsely Accused*

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