



Sexual Assault Response Services *of Southern Maine*

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Why Children Sometimes Don't Tell

"I didn't tell because I didn't like talking about it." (age 10)

"Daddy said it was a personal thing, so I didn't tell." (age 10)

"He was too much bigger to me, so I didn't say nothing. He said, 'Don't tell.'" (age 4)

"He told me if I told, he'd spank the "blank" out of me." (age 9)

"He'd pull on my breast and he'd tell me if I screamed or told, he'd pull it off. He really hurt me. I didn't want my brother to go to jail." (age 12)

"He said if I told my mother, he would kill her and eat her, and he said if I told anyone else, he would just kill me." (age 8)

"He said if I didn't do it, he'd do it to my sister." (age 12)

"I didn't think my mom would believe me and I thought she'd get mad at me." (age 11)

"He beat me before and I knew if I told, he'd do it again." (age 14)

"Well, I couldn't tell. My mother is already sick and my step-brother was in trouble with the police." (age 13)

"Once I told my mother and she didn't do anything. She didn't even say anything to him." (age 15)

"He told me if I told, he wouldn't be the only one who would get in trouble." (age 6)

"He's a nice man. He gives children candy and gum." (age 5)

"He told me people won't understand, so we better not say anything." (age 13)

"He told me not to tell, and says it is meanish." (age 9)

"I told my mom about a year ago and she said, 'What do you want me to do? Leave him? We'll lose everything.' Mother finally bought a lock for my bedroom door." (age 13)

Help, Hope, and Healing