



PROTECTING
CHILDREN
from the

UNTHINKABLE

YOU may be the ONLY HOPE to stop the nightmare.
Information you may not know but need to know.

For elders, preachers, other church leaders, bible
class teachers, camp directors, and camp staff

PEDOPHILE:

A person with unnatural desire for sexual relations
with children.

You cannot tell by looking. A pedophile could be:

1. A pillar in the community
2. A leader at church
3. A sweet old man
4. Someone you have known for decades
5. The victim's father, brother, uncle, etc.
6. A neighbor

MY BACKGROUND

From December 1970 until August 1973, I was a US Navy JAG officer on active duty as a prosecutor. I prosecuted all types of offenders. The most heart-breaking cases involved victims who were sexually molested by pedophiles.

Example: An eight-year-old girl sexually molested by her stepfather for five years until she finally tried to kill herself at the age of thirteen (no doubt a cry for help). Her mother refused to believe her husband did this, which is not unusual. I have many stories of other victims that I wish I could forget, but I can't. I have discussed these issues with preachers and elders for many years.

I can't recall how many times a preacher has called me and said something like, "We have a dear brother who is accused of molesting his child. We can't believe it. He denies it. He is a great Christian, etc. etc.," only to hear a few months later that the accused finally admitted it to the police, he was prosecuted and is now in prison.

There are pedophiles that grab a child they don't know using various techniques. (E.g., troller in Navy base housing playground.) More often, it is a pedophile abusing children he knows such as relatives, neighbors, or children who are entrusted to them. Maybe this abuser is a teacher, coach or babysitter.

I encourage you to do some research on the Penn State coverup. They had a pedophile, a friend of the head football coach, using Penn State facilities for a charitable activity for disadvantaged children. It came to the attention of Penn State employees and administrators that a child was molested on campus (1998). They were required to alert the authorities, but they did NOTHING. More than ten years went by, and the pedophile continued to molest young boys. Finally, he was arrested, convicted and imprisoned. It is unknown how many boys' lives were ruined, but there were at least ten between 1994 and 2009.

A PEDOPHILE'S METHODS

He or she will select a potential victim and begin to "groom" them. They will say nice things to their potential victim such as, "You're special," and give them gifts, etc. While they are saying nice things to them, they may begin

to briefly or lightly touch the victim. They do this in ways that can be explained later in case the victim reports the contact to their parents. They will say things like, "Oh, I accidentally brushed up against her." This grooming can go on for several months. In addition, they may say things like, "You're my favorite granddaughter," "You're so cute," or "You're beautiful." The pervert may then tell his victim that they have a "special relationship," and it must be kept a secret from mom or dad.

If the perpetrator is a father or stepfather of the child, he may begin to threaten him or her to keep her quiet. He may say to her that she can't tell her mom what's going on because authorities will take him out of the house, send him to prison; then there won't be anybody to pay the mortgage, and they'll lose the house. He may say that "Your mom and your brothers and sisters will be out on the street." I have heard a mother say something to the effect of, "If my husband goes to prison we'll have to move out of base housing and I have five kids!" I was appalled.

These pedophiles all have remarkably similar methods to gratify themselves. Children don't know anything about these perverted things unless they have been abused. When a victim explains what is being done to him or her and it fits the pattern, the child is telling the truth. They are describing what is being or has been done to them.

I acknowledge that I was a prosecutor, and as a result, I always believed the victim, especially when that victim described common tactics and sexual scenarios.

Pedophiles are very controlling with their victims. They obviously have a fear that the victim will tell somebody about the abuse. They know that they could tell somebody at school, camp, or anytime whenever the perpetrator is not around. The pedophile will try to limit the friends the victim has. They also are constantly asking their victim where they're going, who they're seeing, etc.

Pedophiles search for opportunities to continue their perverted ways. There are certain situations that give pedophiles opportunities. I consider these high-risk situations.

- Women who let a boyfriend move in with her and her kids.
- Homes where children are seriously isolated, maybe like home school, or limiting the victim to friends that are also relatives.
- Organizations that pair adult males with children.

In these types of situations, mothers must be extremely vigilant.

The first time I prosecuted a pedophile I went to a Navy psychiatrist to find out if there was some type of treatment for pedophiles that I could recommend to the judge in the penalty phase of the court martial. The doctor told me there is no cure, no talk therapy, or even surgery that can guarantee that the perpetrator won't molest again. He specifically told me that the only way to guarantee the perpetrator will not molest other children is to "put this guy where there are no kids!"

The following is a list of commonly believed fictions. They are not true; don't be deceived.

- Christians would not sexually abuse children.
- Christians would not physically, emotionally, or verbally abuse children.
- Reporting what I heard to "mom" will get the matter resolved.
- The preachers or elders at the congregation where the offender attends can take care of this.
- This could not have happened because mom would have known and would have stopped it.

Unfortunately, I could name examples where many of the "fictions" listed above were found to be true.

Do the right thing and do it NOW!

You may be a mandated reporter by state law. All states have similar statutes. Mandated reporters include camp directors, camp counselors, teachers, teacher's aides, school board members, ministers, firefighters, doctors, nurses, and any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect a child may be being abused or molested. If you have information that would cause a reasonable person to suspect a child has been or may be subject to abuse or neglect, that's enough. There is no he said/she said in this. You don't weigh the evidence. If the child said it happened, you report it.

IMMEDIATELY make a report through the child abuse hotline number for your state and follow up with a written report if requested. You may be directed to the Division of Family Services or to local police.

DO NOT:

- Investigate the matter yourself
- Contact the perpetrator
- Call the mother
- Call the preacher or elders where the perpetrator goes to church and leave it to them to take care of

Suppose a felon gets out of prison and wants to place membership with your congregation. This is how you should proceed.

- Ask him what the charges were against him and of what he was convicted.
- Then check for yourself. If he said it was for larceny and the records indicate it was for sexual abuse of children, he obviously has not repented.
- See if he is properly listed in the sex offender's registry.
- He is likely on parole. Get him to agree that you can contact his parole officer and get a copy of the parole order. It likely states that he can't be alone with children, etc. In most cases he cannot be around children at all.
- Tell him that the elders are going to help him keep all the requirements of his parole order.
- Tell him you are going to tell the parents of all the children at the congregation that he is a convicted sex offender. Elders, imagine if you don't share this information and another child is molested—what would that be like? You allowed the pedophile to be a member of the flock without warning the rest of the flock.
- Designate somebody, maybe a deacon or several of them, to watch the pedophile. If he gets up and goes to the restroom, someone should go with him. Once the restroom has been checked to make sure there are no children in it, then he may go. Stand at the door and make sure no children go in while he is in there

You may get pushback from him regarding these requirements. He'll say things like, "I've repented," "I've confessed," "I've paid my debt to society," or "God has forgiven me."

Your response to all of that is to tell him that you are going to help him get to heaven and you're going to make sure he never commits this sin again. You're going to work with him to make sure that he can control himself etc. If that is not agreeable to him, he hasn't repented.

Elders, as you know, you are shepherds of the flock. You need to protect the children in your flock. Here is an illustration. Suppose a wolf shows up at the field where a flock of sheep is grazing and tells the shepherd that he has given up eating sheep and wants to be a member of the flock. Would any good shepherd allow that?

What about Matthew 18? Shouldn't we go to the perpetrator and ask him if it is true? Or do our own investigation? NO! Pedophiles are very deceptive. They know how to manipulate people. If he knows his secret is out prior to the arrival of authorities, he will quickly circle the wagons. In other words, he will threaten the mom, the siblings, the victims, etc. with economic disaster. He will instruct all these people to deny that anything occurred.

The state agencies which protect children have experts who can investigate and determine whether or not crimes have been committed. We need to let them do their work. 1 Peter 2:13–15.

`This is just a little bit of information about this matter. Many of these things came up in my thirty years of practicing law.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can come visit with you, your eldership, or have a Zoom call and make more recommendations tailored to your problem.

Dick Modin

If you want to reach out to Dick Modin personally, he welcomes you. Please let us know and we will connect you.