

Ten Common Myths of Child Abuse

Myth 1. Parents have the right to discipline their children however, they see fit.

FACT: Discipline must follow state law; despite what parents think is best. The method they use cannot leave marks that last longer than 24 hours or more.

Myth 2. Family and Children's Services (a.k.a. CPS) always removes children from their homes after an abuse report.

FACT: Approximately 1% to 2% of reports result in removal of children.

Myth 3. Male children do not get sexually abused.

FACT: 1 out of 6-7 boys have been, currently are or, will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

Myth 4. If a male child is sexually abused, it means he is gay.

FACT: Although 98% of all sexual abusers are male, sexual abuse has nothing to do with sexual orientation.

Myth 5. Sexual Abuse only happens by strangers, people the child does not know.

FACT: About 80% to 85% of all abuse victims are abused by someone they know, love, or trust.

Myth 6. Children deserve abuse only when they are so challenging to their parents they push them to the point where they have no choice.

FACT: Being a parent is not easy, however, children NEVER deserve to be maltreated. If the situation escalates to the point of abuse, the parents need to get help immediately.

Myth 7. One parent must be arrested after a report of abuse is made.

FACT: Not necessarily, the goal is to keep the family unit intact, unless the child is in danger.

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Myth 8. A parent's choice to be abusive is only excusable if it is a well-known cultural practice.

FACT: False, parents must follow California law regarding child abuse, regardless of cultural background.

Myth 9. If you were abused as a child, you will abuse your children as a parent.

FACT: 75% of abused kids grow up and DO NOT abuse their children.

Myth 10. You can not make a report about past abuse.

FACT: It is never too late to report abuse, because the information will kept in file in case another abuse situation arises.



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