



YMCA OF  
HANNIBAL

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION



## DEAR PARENTS & GUARDIANS,

Did you know that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys in the U.S. experience sexual abuse by the age of 18?

**The YMCA of Hannibal's top priority is the safety of youth in our programs and services. We understand the importance of delivering upon this promise and the great responsibility involved in doing so. Our team takes this responsibility very seriously.**

At the Y, we take the following actions to help keep kids safe in our facilities and programs:

- Requiring criminal background checks for staff and volunteers
- Requiring training for staff and volunteers on preventing and responding to child abuse
- Requiring staff and volunteers to report child abuse in accordance with applicable laws
- Screening our adult members in our facilities against a national sex offender registry and written protocol for how to respond when adults are identified as registered sex offenders
- Teach children about appropriate and inappropriate touching through our personal safety talks
- Carefully supervise and monitor our programs
- Limit circumstances in which staff and volunteers are alone with a child or teen where others cannot observe them
- Ensure our team works regularly with external child protection experts to provide continuous training and education in abuse prevention
- Implement child sexual abuse prevention practices and policies to remain a member in good standing with the National Council of YMCAs.

It's our responsibility as a Y to understand the risks and red flags of child abuse and what we can do to respond to abuse when we see it. It's also our responsibility to educate and share this knowledge with the broader community, including the parents of youth in our programs, in an effort to help prevent abuse.

Thank you for doing your part to help protect children in our community.



**Eric Abts, CEO**

For additional Child Abuse Prevention Resources:  
YMCA of Hannibal: 573-221-0586  
Missouri Department of Social Services, [click here](#).