



Summary & Discussion Guide:

Module 6 –Off-Hours Boundaries – Elementary School

Child Molesters need repeated access to children and schools provide that access. However, schools also provide structure and oversight which serve to deter and detect inappropriate behavior. In this video, boundaries were discussed that restrict staff access to students during non-school hours which is a crucial, yet often overlooked aspect of protecting children from sexual abuse in schools. (Source 1, 2, 3)

Recommendations without prior written agreement between staff members, parent or guardian and a school administrator, based on pre-existing affiliations are:

- Prohibit planned interactions between staff and students outside of school sponsored and approved activities. (Source 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Prohibit staff from babysitting children in your care or their siblings, paid or unpaid.
 - 48% of child molesters interviewed obtained access to their victims through babysitting. (Source 1, 5, 6)
- Prohibit staff from offering personal tutoring services to children in your school or their siblings, paid or unpaid. (Source 1, 7)
 - It's encouraged to meet student's tutoring needs by offering the service as part of the district/school regularly scheduled program with multiple adults present.
- Prohibit staff from visiting a student's home and from having students at their home. (Source 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11)
- Prohibit sleepovers with staff and students outside of school sponsored and approved programs. (Source 1, 3, 5, 11, 12)
- Prohibit staff from attending student's birthday parties. (Source 1)
- Prohibit staff from attending family gatherings of the kids in your care. (Source 1)
- When unexpectedly running into students during off-hours and off-site boundaries apply, especially NO:
 - One adult – one child situations, physical touching, isolated locations, photographs of kids, or driving with kids. (Source 1)

Boundaries themselves may not stop the abuse, they will establish a common expectation among staff, parents, and students and empower administrators to intervene, hopefully before abuse happens.

Reflection Questions:

1. What are the common expectations your staff, parents, and children have regarding when and how staff interact with students during non-school hours?
2. How might those practices be exploited by someone with an intent to sexually abuse children?



Sources

1. Diane Cranley, *8 Ways to Create their Fate: Protecting the Sexual Innocence of Children in Youth-Serving Organizations* (Mustang: Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC), 199-211.
2. Janet Saul and Natalie C. Audage, "Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-serving Organizations: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2007): 11.
3. Kenneth V. Lanning and Park Dietz, "Acquaintance Molestation and Youth-Serving Organizations," *J Interpers Violence* (May 2014): 15, 18, doi:10.1177/0886260514532360.
4. Sandy K. Wurtele, "Preventing the Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Youth-serving Organizations," *Children and Youth Services Review* (2012): 2447, 2449, doi:10.1016/childyouth.2012.09.009.
5. Carla van Dam, *Identifying Child Molesters: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse by Recognizing the Patterns of the Offender* (Binghamton: The Haworth Maltreatment and Trauma Press, 2001), 30-35, 146.
6. Michele Elliott, Kevin Browne, and Jennifer Kilcoyne, "Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: What Offenders Tell Us," *Child Abuse & Neglect* 19, no. 5 (1995): 581, 585, doi:10.1016/0145-2134(95)00017-3.
7. Charol Shakeshaft, "Know the Warning Signs of Educator Sexual Misconduct," *Kappan Magazine* (February 2013): 12.
8. Robin Sax, *Predators and Child Molesters: What Every Parent Needs to Know to Keep Kids Safe: A Sex Crimes DA Answers 100 of the Most Asked Questions* (Amherst: Prometheus Books, 2009), 86.
9. David Finkelhor, Heather Hammer, and Andrea J. Sedlak, *Sexually Assaulted Children: National Estimates and Characteristics*, NISMART, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (August 2008): 7.
10. Dean G. Kilpatrick, Benjamin E. Saunders, and Daniel W. Smith, *Youth Victimization: Prevalence and Implication*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (2003): 5.
11. Howard N. Snyder, *Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics*, A NIBRS Statistical Report, National Center for Juvenile Justice (2000): 11, NCJ-182-990.
12. Dominic Holden, "After Allegations of Sexual Abuse, Big Brothers Program Ends Sleepovers" *The Stranger*, February 20, 2012, accessed July 15, 2014, <http://www.thestranger.com/slog/archives/2012/02/20/after-allegations-of-sexual-abuse-a-ban-on-sleepovers-for-big-brothers-and-little-brothersandview=comments>.

Reading Material

- Finally, during a sleepover at her Boca Raton home, Flannigan took the boy's virginity while his siblings slumbered in another room, he said. (http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2005-07-21/news/0507201664_1_first-encounter-home-teacher)
- Stroh abused three boys he had known for years through the school — ages 6, 9, and 11 — during a sleepover in his house (<http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/Ex-Bethel-teacher-sentenced-to-18-months-for-6775052.php>)
- L.A. schools to pay \$139 million in teacher's abuse of students. At the center of the scandal was a teacher who was once invited to students' birthday parties and quinceañeras. (<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-la-teacher-sex-abuse-suit-20141121-story.html>)
- The wife of an Oklahoma elementary school's principal is under fire after she allegedly gave five underage girls alcohol at a birthday bash. (<http://kfor.com/2017/03/15/wife-of-oklahoma-elementary-school-principal-charged-after-birthday-party-incident/>)