



CLUBS CARE

# Awareness + Action = Prevention



## Webinar

### A Perfect Score for Prevention

Presented by Cindy McElhinney from  
Darkness to Light, a child advocacy organization

**APRIL 6**



**DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

## ➤ **What is child sexual abuse**

### ➤ **The facts**

- **Some statistics**
- **Size and scope of problem**
- **Impact on victims and society**

### ➤ **Who abuses children**

- **Who is the abuser?**
- **Peer abuse**
- **The grooming process**

### ➤ **What it takes to protect**



# It's in the Headlines

## Former coach, facing 35 counts of sex abuse, due in court

Posted at: 04/19/2013 6:16 AM

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There could be an update on the case against a former volunteer football coach and firefighter accused of sexually abusing young boys.

Leslie Hoke, 37 of Canandaigua, has already been indicted on 35 counts. The charges include sexual conduct against a child, sex abuse and 10 counts of criminal sex act.

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SPORTS & LEISURE | 7/25/2012 @ 1:51PM | 1,330 views

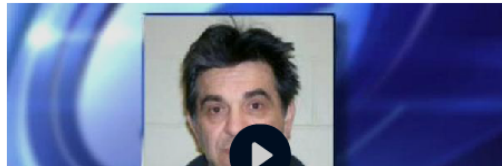
## With Another Coach Accused Of Sexual Misconduct, Who Can You Trust With Your Child?

The [Washington Post](#) has a [blockbuster story](#) that is as depressing as it is familiar: a prominent coach alleged to be involved in sexual abuse of children [placed in his trust](#). From the Post:

Northern Suburbs News

### More victims, charges in Westchester basketball coach accused of abusing girls

Thursday, April 25, 2013



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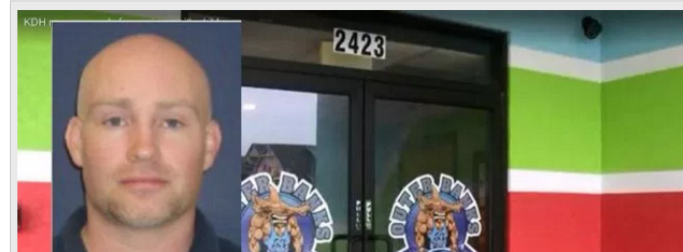
Current offers



## NC cheer and gymnastics coach accused of sex crimes with 3 children

WAVY-TV

Published: September 26, 2015, 9:46 pm | Updated: September 26, 2015, 9:49 pm



BREAKING NEWS: Aurora Berlin Berlin robbed at gunpoint, police say

## Olympic hopeful says fellow speed skater sexually abused her

Posted on: 4:58 pm, April 1, 2013



# Too Many Children



# Child Sexual Abuse

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- **Any sexual act between an adult and a minor or between two minors when one exerts power over the other**
- **Forcing or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act**
- **Includes non contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or Internet**
- **A crime punishable by law**
- **An agonizing and traumatic experience for its victims**



- **1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday** (Darkness to Light, 2013)
- **93% of children know their abusers** (Snyder, 2000)
- **40% of children are abused by older or more powerful children** (Finkelhor, 2012)
- **Most child victims never report the abuse** (Smith et al., 2000; Broman-Fulks et al., 2007)
- **Happens in communities everywhere; no organization, no race, no religion, no economic class is free of child sexual abuse**



- **Adult women who were sexually abused as a child are more than twice as likely to suffer from depression (Rohde 2008)**
- **Among male survivors, more than 70% seek treatment for issues such as substance abuse and suicidal thoughts (Walrath 2003)**
- **Reported cases of CSA cost \$35 billion annually in the US (**[www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/victcost.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/victcost.pdf)**)**
- **Other Social Outcomes**
  - **PTSD, depression and suicide**
  - **Eating disorders**
  - **Teen pregnancy**
  - **Academic failure and dropout**
  - **Substance abuse**
    - **Violent crime**



# Who Abuses Children?

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- **Men, women, older youth**
- **Those that abuse children look and act just like everyone else**
- **Abusers are attracted to organizations that give them access to children**
- **Sports are vulnerable**
  - **Other kids**
  - **Coaches**
  - **Volunteers**
  - **Other adults that have access to athletes**





# Peer on Peer Abuse

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- **34% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by juveniles**  
(Snyder 2000)
- **7% of abuse is perpetrated by youth under the age of 12**  
(Snyder 2000)
- **Fastest growing form of abuse**
- **Often directly related to bullying**
- **Where is it happening?**
  - **Bathrooms, locker rooms, playgrounds, buses**



- **Many abusers groom victims and their families**
  - **Targeting a victim**
  - **Gaining trust, filling an unmet need of the child**
  - **Isolating the child**
  - **Sexualizing the relationship**
  - **Maintaining control to keep the victim compliant and silent**



# Red Flag Behavior

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- **Most frequently we catch abusers breaking rules/policies**
- **Important to not only have policies in place but to enforce those policies**
  - **Share these policies with parents**
- **Red flag behaviors:**
  - **Gift giving**
  - **Favoring a child**
  - **Lap sitting**
  - **Tickling**
  - **Odd behavior that makes staff feel uncomfortable**
  - **Cell phone calls to children**
    - **Seeking private time with a child**



# What It Takes to Protect Children

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- **Adult responsibility**
- **Organizations setting a new standard of care**
- **Parents insisting on policy**
- **Education**
- **Leadership**
  - **Policy**
  - **Collaboration**



- **Make prevention a priority**
- **Background checks for every adult**
- **Standards of behavior/Code of Conduct**
  - **Eliminate privacy/one on one in isolation**
  - **Safe personal and physical boundaries**
  - **Travel/transportation**
  - **Limitations on electronic, social, and out-of-program interactions**
  - **Parental awareness, involvement, and monitoring**
- **Training**
- **Clear reporting process**
- **Effective monitoring and communication**



# Individual Responsibility

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- **Make situations safe**
- **Bystander intervention**
- **Talk to kids**
- **Talk to other adults**
- **Insist on policy**
- **Know the policy**
- **Be willing to take a risk to protect**
  - **Intervene**
  - **Report**
  - **Protect**



# Asking Permission to Touch

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## ➤ **Stewards of Children**

- **2 hour video-based prevention training**
- **Powerful survivor stories, experts, and parents**
- **Evidence informed**

## ➤ **The 5 Steps to Protect Children**

- **Learn the facts**
- **Minimize Opportunity**
- **Talk About It**
- **Recognize the Signs**
- **React Responsibly**





## ➤ **Participants report:**

- **Increased knowledge of CSA in general; including prevalence, consequences, and context**
- **Increased knowledge of signs of abuse**
- **Greater willingness to report suspicions of abuse and increased knowledge of reporting procedures**
- **Positive changes to child protect behaviors that minimize opportunity for abuse to occur**
- **Increased ability to recognize or evaluate suspicious behavior and willingness to take action to stop it**



# Clubs Care Campaign

- **D2L and USA Gymnastics have teamed up to provide resources to clubs and parents**
- **Educational initiative designed specifically for gymnastics clubs**
  - **Information, strategies, templates, toolkits, checklists, action steps, posters**



## SAFE SPORT EDUCATION April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



**DARKNESS TO LIGHT  
STEWARDS  
OF CHILDREN®  
online**

As part of National Child Abuse Prevention month, USA Gymnastics and the Clubs Care Campaign are offering the gymnastics community **FREE of CHARGE** the U301 Stewards of Children online course.

**Save \$10!**

**APRIL ONLY!**

**FREE**



**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**

**NEW FREE COURSE**  
\$10 REGISTRATION VALUE

Register & Take:  
**U302: Recognizing & Responding to Child Abuse**

USA Gymnastics Member Club Benefit

**DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

**APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**



➤ **D2L Resources**

- For organizations: [www.D2L.org/orgtools](http://www.D2L.org/orgtools)
- For parents: [www.D2L.org/parenttools](http://www.D2L.org/parenttools)

➤ **Stewards of Children prevention training for adults**

- Information: [www.D2L.org/stewards](http://www.D2L.org/stewards)
- In person: [www.D2L.org/nearyou](http://www.D2L.org/nearyou)
- Online: [www.D2L.org/online](http://www.D2L.org/online)

➤ **Help resources: [www.D2L.org/gethelp](http://www.D2L.org/gethelp)**



# Contact Information

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**National Prevention Program Manager**

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**843-513-1626**

**IF YOU NEED HELP:**

**1-866-FOR-LIGHT (866-367-5444)**



# Questions

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# Clubs Care Campaign

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**USA GYMNASTICS.**

[USAGym.org/ClubsCare](https://USAGym.org/ClubsCare)