



The National Parent Education Center  
Serving, Supporting and Educating Parents on Education  
We help Parents Create Quality Education For Their Child

[www.tnpec.org](http://www.tnpec.org)

**PRESS RELEASE...October 5, 2010...7 pm**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...**

**SUBJECT:** IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF REFERRING, RECOMMENDING AND/OR SUGGESTING PRIVATE AND CHURCH MENTORING PROGRAMS TO PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

In light of the alleged accusations against Bishop Eddie Long and what amounts to reasonable suspicion of the accusers being victims, In My Shoes, Inc. - The National Parent Education Center has suspended its practice of referring, recommending and/or suggesting private and church mentoring programs to parents and children.

**OUR POSITION:** As an Educational Organization, it is common to implement appropriate action derived from reasonable suspicion. Our decision is based on but not limited to the following:

- 1) Bishop Eddie Long non-denial of the accusations...
- 2) Teenage Sexual Abuse stats and information, which are enclosed in this letter...
- 3) The actions of ministers to support Bishop Long, which we understand. However, the statements of ministers and their actions prove a failure to stay neutral and show compassion for the accusers' pain and suffering. In addition, the failure of the ministers to acknowledge the accusers parallels a process similar to ex-communication...
- 4) Seventy plus years of experience our Board Members have in the field of education and the understanding of sexual abuse...

**OUR CONCERN:** Without the mere recognition that it is reasonable to suspect the accusers are victims and the negative treatment these young men have received from the community, our concern is that other teenagers and victims of sexual abuse will fail to report the abuse.

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Teenage Sexual Abuse  
*What You Should Know*

Teen sexual abuse occurs when a teenager is abused in a way that can be considered sexual in nature. Teenage sexual abuse most commonly occurs when an adult in a position of power takes advantage of his or her authority to coerce a teen into sexual activity. However, teen sexual abuse does occur between teenagers, often when one wants to display power over another. Even though the victim may be a teenager, if she or he is under the age of 18, it is considered child sexual abuse when the perpetrator is an adult of at least 18 years of age.

Date rape is a form of sexual abuse. It is important to realize that sex involving threats, impaired judgment (due to alcohol or drugs) and coercion does not constitute consensual sex. Also, just because a drugged, drunk or scared person does not resist sex, it does not mean that he or she is not a victim of sexual abuse. Society is moving toward

glamorizing rape, and saying that it is actually enjoyed. However, this is rarely the case, and teen sexual abuse in any form is a serious problem. And a crime.

### Physical teen sexual abuse

Some child and teen sexual abuse is physical in nature. This means that actual physical contact is made, although it may not necessarily be intercourse. The sexual contact may or may not be painful. Some acts that are classified as sex acts, and that fall under the umbrella of teen sexual abuse include fondling the genital areas of a teenager, oral contact with genitals (either forcing the teen to perform oral sex or performing oral sex on the teenager), penetration with digits (such as fingers), and, of course, vaginal or anal intercourse. Additionally, forcing a teenager to masturbate in front of the perpetrator can be considered physical teen sexual abuse.

### Non-physical teen sexual abuse

Sexual abuse does not need to involve physical contact or [sexual intercourse](#) between the perpetrator and the victim in order for it to be considered abuse. Exposure on the part of the perpetrator is considered sexual abuse. Additionally, voyeurism, which is basically being a "peeping tom," is considered teen sexual abuse. Some sexual abuse perpetrators set up recorders in teenagers' rooms so that they can record and watch them. This is a form of teen sexual abuse. Child pornography is also considered non-physical sexual abuse. It is important to note that degrading sexual comments can also be considered a form of teen sexual harassment, if not teen sexual abuse.

### Who is most affected by teen sexual abuse?

While females seem to be sexually abused as teenagers more than males, race, economic status and culture do not appear to play a role in the likelihood of being victimized by sexual abuse. And it is difficult to get information on male teen sexual abuse due to the reluctance of males to report being abused sexually. Additionally, our society puts a premium on sexual activity in males, and so male teenagers who may have had non-consensual sex are encouraged to be proud of their sexual activity after the fact.

What is Sexual Abuse? Main Source Material:

- "Understanding Child Sexual Abuse," American Psychological Association. [Online.]

When it comes to teen sexual abuse, the problem is more common than one might think. While not considered terribly common, the problem is not considered uncommon. And, because **less than half of sexual abuse is reported**, it could be more prevalent than most people are willing to admit. Therefore, it is important to carefully consider teen sexual abuse, and how to stop it. One way is education. It is important for teens and adults to understand that sexual abuse of teenagers is wrong, and that it can encompass a variety of sex acts, and that fear, impaired judgment (due to drugs, alcohol or mental state) and coercion can lead to sexual abuse, even though the victim may not actively resist. A victim whose compliance is due to factors other than a desire to engage in sexual activity has not actually consented.

### Statistics regarding teen sexual abuse

While female teenagers are more likely to be sexually abused than male teenagers, cultural, racial and economic factors do not seem to have an effect on the likelihood of becoming a victim of teen sexual abuse. Here are some teen sexual abuse statistics:

- 1 in 4 girls (25%) are sexually abused by the age of 18.
- **1 in 6 boys (17%) are sexually abused by the age of 18.**
- Most teen sexual abuse victims (7 in 10, or 70%) know their abuser. It is generally a family member, or someone close to the family.
- Of female Americans who are raped, 54 percent of them experience this type of sexual abuse for the first time before they are 18.
- A victim of one incident of teen sexual abuse is likely to experience further sexual abuse.
- **Teenagers account for 51% of all reported sexual abuse**
- **Teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 are 3.5 times more likely than the general public to be victims of sexual abuse.**
- 69% of the incidences of teen sexual abuse occur in a residence.
- 23% of all sexual offenders are under the age of 18

- Female victims of teen sexual abuse while in grades 9 through 12 are more likely than others to experience eating disorders, suicidal behavior, pregnancy and risky sexual behaviors.

### **Statistics regarding the report and prosecution of teen sexual abuse**

Only about 31% of teen sexual abuse incidents are reported. Social stigma, fear of retribution and the trauma of not being believed stymie reports of teen sexual abuse. Additionally, the low probability of an arrest or substantial prison sentence for the perpetrator can cause reluctance on the part of teen sexual abuse victims to report. Here are teen sexual abuse reporting and prosecution statistics:

- When sexual abuse is reported, the probability that an arrest will be made is 50.8%.
- When teen sexual abuse does occur, the overall probability that the perpetrator will be sent to prison is 16.3%. - The average sentence for the perpetrator of a teen sexual abuse crime is 128 days.
- Of men incarcerated for rape, a form of sexual abuse, 80% of them reported that their victims were under the age of 18.

Sexual Abuse Statistics Main source material:

- "Statistics," Sexual Violence. Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape. [Online.]