



Basic Training Section 2 Scenarios: Recognising and Reporting Abuse

The following information is a guide to appropriate responses for **Scenario A**:

1) What can you say?

“You have done the right thing in telling me about this. It sounds really hard for you. It’s not your fault how your dad behaves. It sounds scary to me.

There are people who can help kids who are in situations like this. We need to help you be safe in the future so I am going to talk to another leader about how we can help you. Our church has someone whose job it is to help in situations like this. That person is the right person to speak to – don’t worry, I won’t talk to your mum and dad about this. I will only talk to the person at the Safe Church Unit who needs to know so we can help you be safe.”

2) What steps do you take next?

Once you have finished talking with Max and he is happily settled for the night then meet confidentially with the appropriate senior leader. Document what Max has told you. Contact the Safe Church Unit via phone at the earliest most appropriate time (if the conversation happened late at night, for example, call the SCU the next morning). You might wonder if it is ok to send Max home – the answer is most likely yes. Max has not indicated he is in immediate danger but rather that there is a pattern of abuse happening at home. Also, you don’t want to have a “stand-off” with Max’s parent(s) when they come to collect him from camp.

Rather, what Max has told you needs to be brought to the right avenue for him to be helped long term and by calling the SCU or by directly calling Child Protection yourself if you prefer (and then calling the SCU afterwards) this will be facilitated.

3) How should you look out for Max for the rest of the camp?

Make sure Max is included and cared for by the leaders. You don’t need to tell all the leaders what Max has told you, as this would breach confidentiality, but you can ask other leaders especially to pray for him and to be on the lookout to make sure he is doing ok. Let the other leaders know that if they think Max is looking upset or they have other concerns about his well-being that they should alert you and the senior leader who also is aware of the situation, so that you both can respond.