



Basic Training Section 2 Scenarios: Recognising and Reporting Abuse – Response

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

1) What is your answer?

“I would be worried about the person and want to make sure they are ok. I would want them to know I care and that what is happening to them is wrong.”

2) What can you say?

“You have done the right thing in telling me about this. I can’t imagine how hard this is for you. It’s not your fault how your step-dad behaves. What he is doing to you is wrong and if I were you I would feel really hurt and scared.

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 or step-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.”

3) What steps do you take next?

Finish talking together by again re-assuring Annie that she has done the right thing in telling you and that you will be there to support her and pray for her. You might wonder if it is ok to send Annie home – the answer is most likely yes. What is happening to Annie at home is very serious and needs to be brought to the right avenue so she can be helped but you don’t want to have a “stand-off” with her parent(s) when they come to collect her at the end of the night by saying “Annie can’t come home with you tonight”. That wouldn’t help the situation and may even make it worse.

Immediately after the youth group meeting has finished and the kids have gone home, make sure you meet confidentially with the appropriate senior leader. Document what Annie has told you. Contact the Safe Church Unit via phone at the earliest most appropriate time. What Annie has told you needs to be brought to the right avenue for her 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.