

SIBLING ISSUES

Siblings of sexually abused children may:

1. Feel sad or worried about the victim.
2. Be worried that he/she could be victimized next (if not a current victim).
3. May be concerned that someone will also discover his/her victimization, If the sibling is also a victim.
4. Be jealous of the attention that the victim has received from the perpetrator, friends/family following the disclosure, or professionals involved in working with the victim.

SIBLING ISSUES (continued)

Siblings of sexually abused children may:

5. Be angry with the victim for “lying” about the family disruption (i.e. stress of the NOP, the AP having to leave the house, the introduction of child welfare and law enforcement agencies/organizations into the workings of the family).
6. Be too young to understand the discovery of the sexual abuse and the changes that are occurring in the family.
7. May be excluded from the family talk because the family believed that the sibling should be spared from the disruptions.
8. May be embarrassed, ashamed, or afraid of the discovery of the sexual abuse and the unknown future.