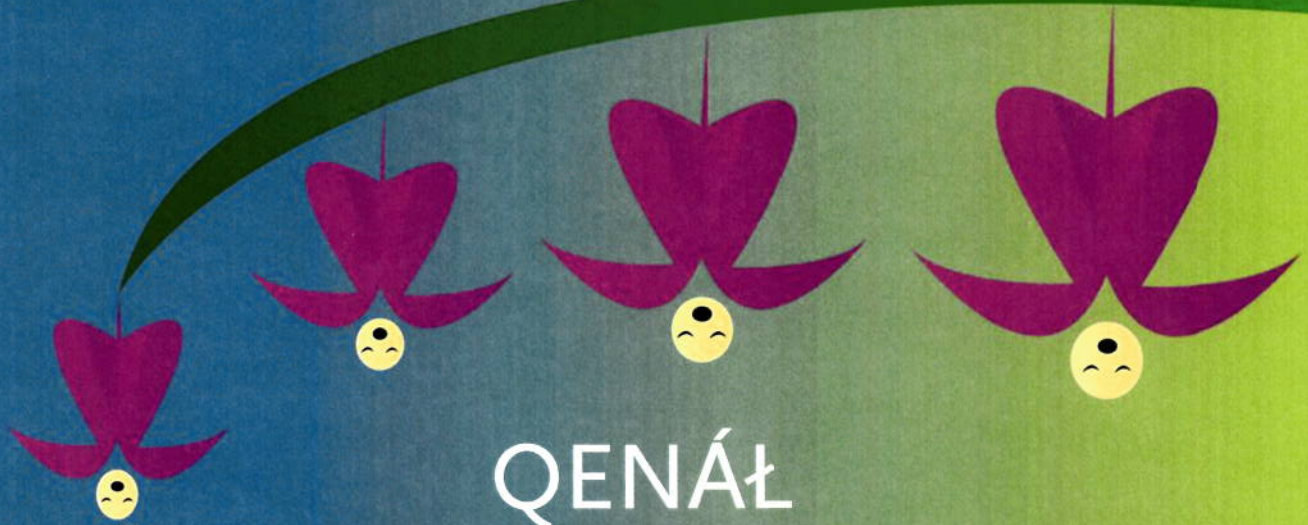


QENÁŁ

*Supporting Adults at Risk
Resource Guide*



QENÁŁ

Supporting Adults at Risk Resource Guide

ABOUT THE TITLE:

QENÁŁ is a SENĆOŦEN word which means, "to be responsible for" or "to look after."

ABOUT THE ARTIST AND COVER ART:

The title of the artwork featured on the cover is "Transformation," created by local artist Liam Paul. Liam is a member of the Tsartlip First Nation, born in 1999. He is keen on expressing his ideas through drawing and sketching. He is currently mastering the art program with the help of his father, renowned Salish artist, Chris Paul. Liam has been designing and producing art-prints since he was 9 years old.

The image contains a bleeding heart plant, which blooms each spring. The stem represents strength, each heart-shaped flower means love and the faces represent motherhood. When the image is turned upside down, it transforms into joyful, singing people.

Liam Paul

South Island First Nations and Island Health Vulnerable Adults Working Group

In the summer of 2012 a conversation began about how Island Health could work in collaboration with First Nations communities in the South Island to support community members (patients/clients) and their families to address issues of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults.

Work in this area has been occurring in different ways on Vancouver Island and in British Columbia in recent years. It was recognized that in the South Island it was important to create opportunities to establish relationships between staff in local First Nations communities and Island Health representatives. From there the next steps would evolve.

Throughout 2012 – 2014 meetings with representatives from First Nations communities and Island Health provided opportunities to learn about what abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults is and to have discussions about individual experiences and lessons learned. There were also opportunities to bring awareness and understanding to First Nations communities about abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults. Based on this participation, learning and the enlightening conversations, working relationships were built and a process for moving forward was identified.

The result of the meetings held over a couple of years is a deepened understanding of the process for addressing issues of abuse and neglect, stronger relationships and this binder which will serve as a resource to First Nations communities and Island Health staff who work with the nine South Island First Nations communities.

This is a tool to provide direction for formally responding to situations of abuse, neglect and self-neglect of vulnerable adults who are unable to ask for help themselves. Much of the work in understanding and identifying abuse, neglect and self-neglect and taking steps to reduce risk factors happens informally and reflects individual, family and community concerns.

This resource is available on the [Aboriginal Health](#) website.

Adult Guardianship Act, Part 3

(AGA Part 3)

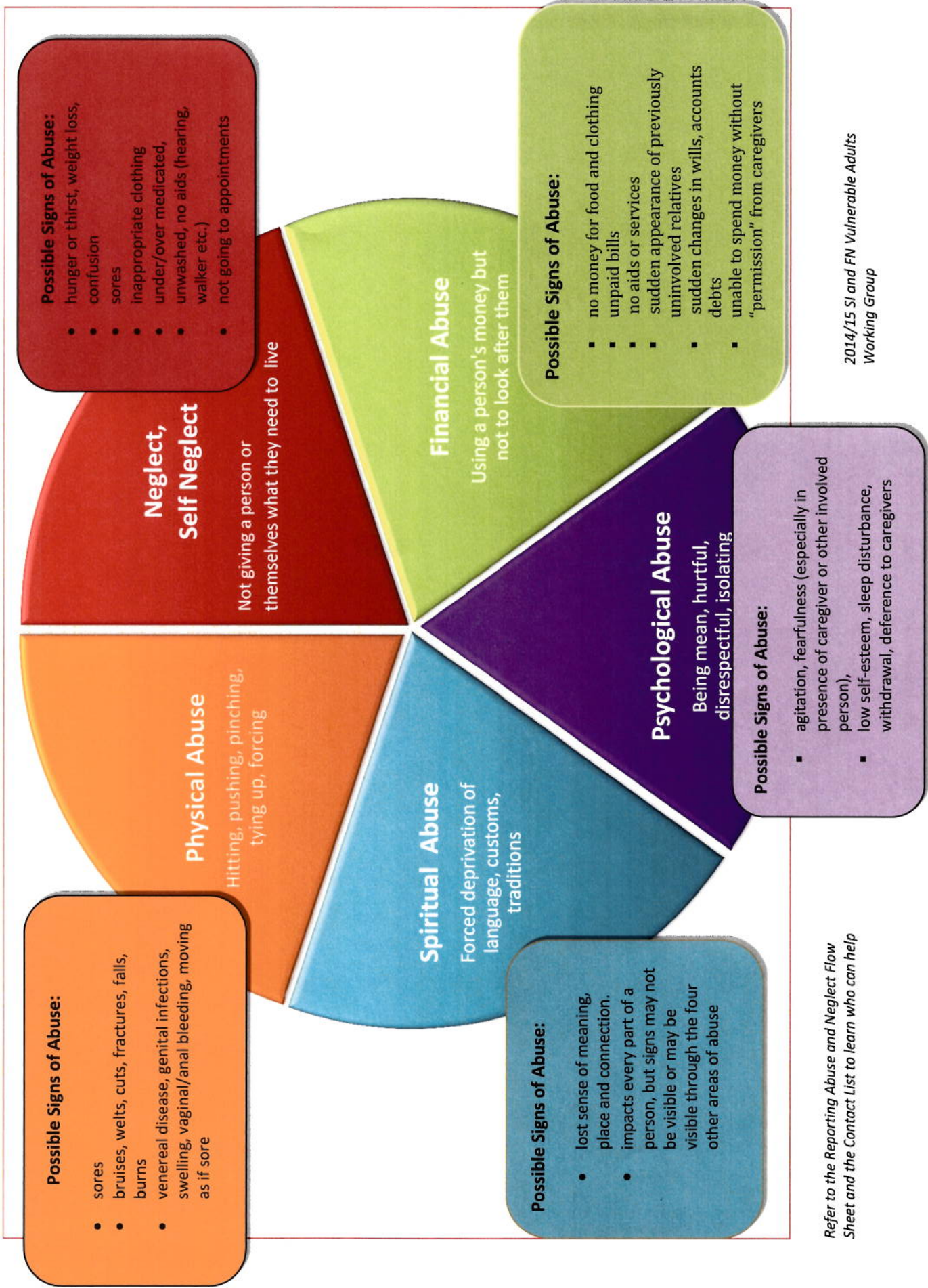
The AGA, Part 3, is a law. Island Health is a *designated agency* and staff who receive a report or concern of abuse and neglect have a responsibility to respond to situations where an adult is at risk for abuse, neglect and self-neglect and not able to ask for help. The RCMP are also a resource to protect vulnerable adults.

Some guiding principles of the AGA are

- **Presumption of Capability**
Every adult is presumed to be capable of making decisions about his/her personal care, health care, legal/financial affairs until a time they're assessed to not be capable
- **Self-Determination**
All adults have the right to live how they want and to accept or refuse support, assistance or protection as long as they don't hurt themselves or others and they are capable of making their own decisions
- **Least Intrusive Support**
All adults should receive the most effective and least intrusive support, assistance and protection when they are unable to care for themselves
- **Court as Last Resort**
Courts should not be asked to appoint decision makers unless all attempts at providing support, assistance and protection have been tried and/or considered

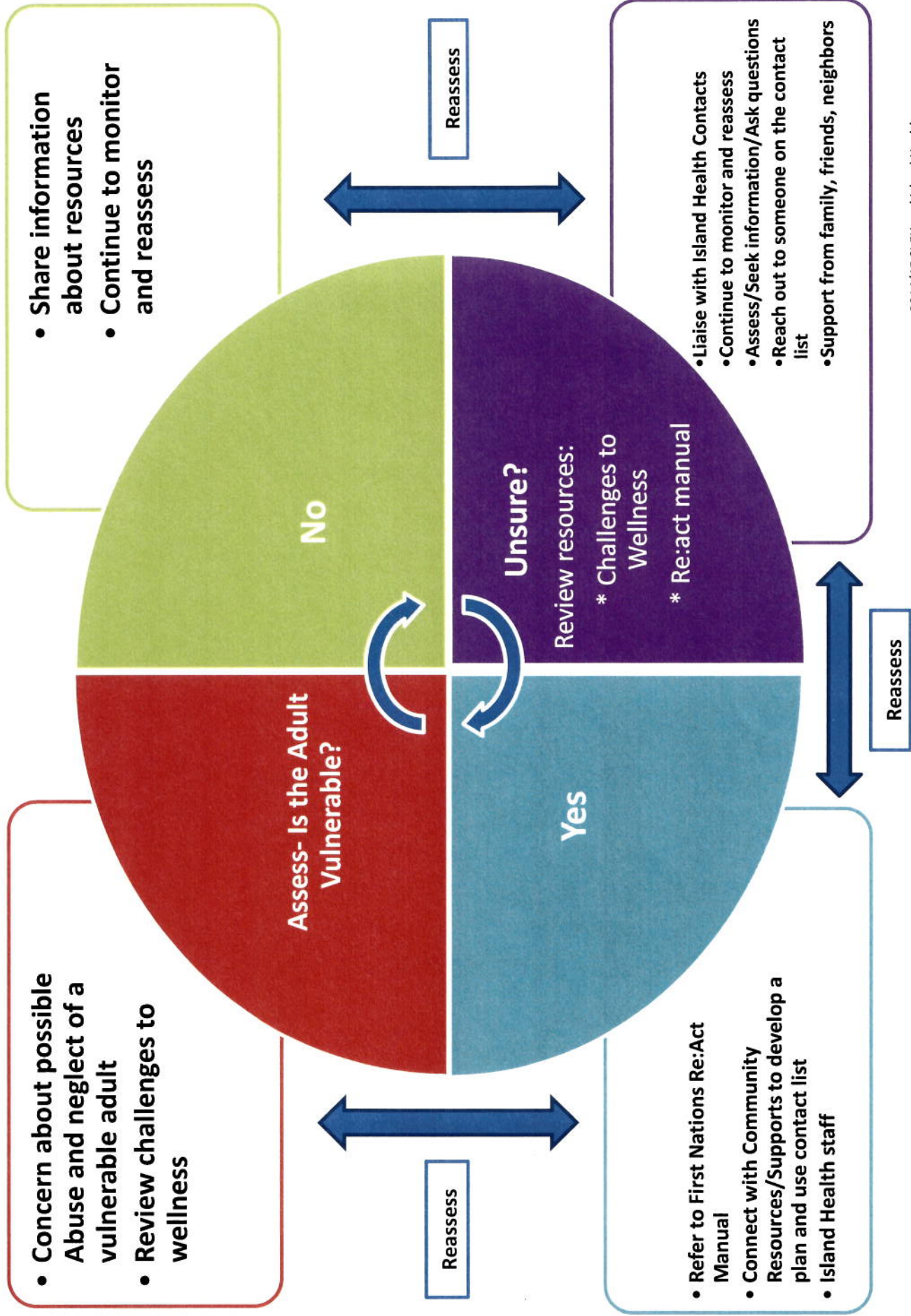
We can work in the communities with our support people and families and connect with Island Health and/or RCMP to help with problem solving and to ask for ideas. If we have a situation where an adult is not capable to help themselves, we have the AGA Part 3 to support and guide further plans to protect the vulnerable adult.

Challenges to Wellness – Signs of Abuse, Neglect, and Self-Neglect



Refer to the Reporting Abuse and Neglect Flow Sheet and the Contact List to learn who can help

Abuse and Neglect Reporting and Follow up



Contacts for Abuse Neglect Issues

Concern About Abuse Identified By:

Community: Elder, Relative, Friend, Neighbour, Home Support Worker, Saanich First Nations Adult Care

Society (SFNACS), other

Brought Forward to:

Band RN	
Nurse Practitioner	
Community Health Rep	
First Nations Liaison Nurse	
RN- Adult Care Society	
LPN - Adult Care Society	

Situation assessed and other resources involved as needed

Band Resources

Social Development Worker	
Band Manager	
Elder's Coordinator	
Wellness Worker	
RCMP Liaison	
Women's Group Coordinator	
Other	

<u>General Health Resources</u>	
Individual's doctor	
Home and Community Care Social Worker	
Aboriginal Liaison Nurse	
Hospital Social Worker	
Island Health Central Intake - Referral to Case Management, Home Care Nursing, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietitian, and Social Work services	
*Private Line for Health Care Providers only	(250) 388-2210
General Enquiries Line	
*Contact number for General Public	(250) 388-2273
<u>Goals of Intervention</u>	

Ongoing Assessment, Monitoring, and Followup

Review of Support and Assistance Plan

Increased Client Safety, Decreased Isolation, Least Intrusive Approach,

Increased Client Support.

Supporting Adults at Risk Additional Resources

1. Aboriginal Health, Island Health Website

http://www.viha.ca/aboriginal_health/

2. Adult Abuse and Neglect, Island Health Website

<http://www.viha.ca/abuse/>

3. BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support

<http://bcceas.ca/>

4. BC First Nations Re:Act Manual

http://www.vchreact.ca/media/BCFN_REACT-En.pdf

BC Association of Community Response Networks

BC's CRNs are united by the BC Association of CRNs that supports local abuse prevention activities.

Our Mission: To empower communities and individuals through coordination, collaboration and relationship building to stop adult abuse and neglect – together.

Our Vision: Safe communities where adults are valued, respected and free from abuse and neglect.

You can help!

BC's Community Response Networks need your help to continue to be successful. Check out our website or email to find out how you can:

Find Help: Talk to the adult or go to someone you trust

Volunteer: Join your local CRN

Donate: Your financial support, supports CRN activities locally and provincially

BC Association of CRNs
15008 – 26th Ave, Surrey, BC V4P 3H5

FAX: 604-531-9498

Email: administration@bccrns.ca

Web: www.bccrns.ca

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of BC



Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect – Together

You Can Help!

1

BE CLEAR

Adult Abuse is any action, which *causes harm* to another.

- Financial
- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological

Neglect is the failure to provide necessary care, assistance or attention that causes serious physical, mental or emotional harm or damage to or loss of assets.

Self-Neglect is any failure to take care of ourselves that causes serious physical or mental harm or damage to or loss of assets.

We can stop this...

2

BE AWARE

Clues that adult abuse or neglect may be occurring:

Sudden changes in wills, unusual bank withdrawals

A person is rarely seen in the neighborhood

A person appears to be frightened of certain family members, friends, caregivers...

A person appears to have frequent or unexplained injuries

A person has signs of declining health, grooming, and/or physical appearance

Open your eyes...

3

TAKE ACTION

Tell someone you trust who you think can help. If possible, talk to the adult first.

+++++

What is a Community Response Network?

CRNs bring together people just like you to:

- raise awareness - posters, brochures, newspaper articles, skits, resource fairs
- educate through workshops and conferences
- build relationships leading to protocol development so everyone will know who can help
- work toward prevention, and keep track of how the community's response is working to continuously make it better

You can make a difference.....