



Federation of United States

HIGHLAND

DANCING

Teachers and Adjudicators

# FUSTA CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

- This Child Protection Training **does not** address issues of child protection that occur outside the contexts of the FUSTA organization. For example, it does not look at issues of violence or abuse against children in the family, school, streets and/or community.
- Although this Child Protection Training focuses on child protection within organizations such as FUSTA, all organizations – and any individuals working within any organization – also have a responsibility towards the children they work with who may be experiencing specific forms of maltreatment or abuse outside the organization.

# FUSTA CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

## Purpose

To educate members of FUSTA and others how to implement reasonable precautions to reduce potential opportunities for child abuse and to protect our adult FUSTA members from false accusations of abuse.

## Policy

1. When dealing with a child in a non-public situation, FUSTA members should always try to have two adults present or one adult and a parent of a dancer. A person who is at least 18 years of age qualifies as an adult.
2. FUSTA encourages its members and the parents of underage children to be sure that children move in groups of two (2) or more when not with a parent or guardian or not in plain view of others.

- 3. FUSTA encourages its members to protect themselves from false accusations at all times. In an effort to help with this, FUSTA encourages its members to limit private, one-on-one contact between adults and underage dancers as much as possible. This would include “private lessons”. During private lessons, FUSTA feels it is in the teacher’s own best interest to have a parent, guardian or another person present during the lesson – or leave the door open - in order to avoid any action or conduct being misinterpreted or misunderstood.**
  
- 4. At any FUSTA sponsored event one-on-one physical contact between FUSTA members/volunteers and underage dancers is not permitted unless it is in plain view of others. Actions that require personal physical contact, such as adjusting or changing of costumes should be conducted in view of other adults and minors.**

5. Privacy of minors is to be respected. FUSTA members who are not the parent or legal guardian of a minor must respect the privacy of underage dancers. Unless the FUSTA member has verbal or written consent from the parent or legal guardian, in situations such as changing clothes/costumes, the FUSTA member may intrude only to the extent required for health and safety of the dancer.
6. Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, and digital devices is prohibited. While most FUSTA members, volunteers, parents and other family members use cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it has become very easy to invade the privacy of individuals. It is inappropriate to use any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in changing areas, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected by participants.
7. No bullying is allowed. Verbal, physical, and cyber bullying as well as any type of hazing are prohibited by FUSTA.

- 8.** Discipline used in Highland dancing should be constructive and reflect FUSTA's values. Corporal discipline of any kind is never permitted.
- 9.** Appropriate, modest attire, such as a T-shirt or tank top or other cover up, is recommended for all activities at FUSTA-sponsored events.
- 10.** All FUSTA members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the SOBHD Code of Ethics for Highland Dancing. Physical violence, including pushing, shoving or grabbing as well as theft, verbal insults, drugs, and excessive use of alcohol is prohibited.

- 11.** All FUSTA members should model kind behavior and are responsible for monitoring the behavior of minor dancers and interceding when necessary. This could include, but is not necessarily limited to, inappropriate verbal and/or physical actions as well as cyber bullying. Parents of dancers who misbehave should be informed of their child's behavior and asked for assistance to stop it.
  
- 12.** Any person witnessing an infraction of the FUSTA Child Protection policies must immediately report the infraction to the FUSTA President.

# INTRODUCTION TO CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

- This training is an important component of FUSTA's strategy to protect our children from sexual abuse and other forms of maltreatment.
- Child abuse is a serious problem in American society.
- There are more than 3 million reported cases of child abuse each year; this includes 90,000 reported cases of child sexual abuse.
- FUSTA's first priority is to protect children from all forms of abuse especially when they are participating in FUSTA events/activities.
- Educating FUSTA members and volunteers may also have an impact on abuse in the community by increasing the awareness of our members, dancers, and their families.
- This training emphasizes that FUSTA Child Protection Policies be used and followed by all FUSTA members and volunteers.
- These policies protect the children involved in Highland dancing as well as our adult members and volunteers.



# THE PURPOSE OF THIS TRAINING COURSE

- Inform our members and volunteers of FUSTA's Child Protection Policies.
- Help protect our children by rigorous use and enforcement of the FUSTA Child Protection Policies.
- Help protect our members from false accusations when they are teaching and/or participating in FUSTA events/activities.
- Maximize the protection of children by promoting prompt reporting of suspected abuse and violations of FUSTA's Child Protection Policies.
- Provide all FUSTA members and volunteers with a clear understanding of how to recognize, reduce, prevent and report suspected child sexual abuse and molestation and other forms of exploitation.

# TYPES OF ABUSE

- **Physical Abuse**—includes bodily harm or injury caused by blows or harmful substances, as well as exposure to unreasonable risk of harm or injury. This could also include “self harm”, i.e., deliberately cutting or harming oneself.
- **Emotional and Psychological Maltreatment**—attacks a child’s self-image, often through labels and ridicule and bullying.
- **Neglect**—is the failure to provide for a child’s physical, medical, emotional, and safety needs.
- **Sexual Abuse**—can occur through showing and communicating as well as through touching. Not only forced activity, but also permission and persuasion, can be abusive.
- **Non-touching sexual abuse offenses include:**
  - 1. Indecent exposure / exhibitionism
  - 2. Exposing children to pornographic material
  - 3. Deliberately exposing a child to the act of sexual intercourse
  - 4. Masturbation in front of a child
- **Touching sexual offenses include:**
  - 1. Fondling
  - 2. Making a child touch an adult sexual organ(s)
  - 3. Any penetration of a child’s vagina or anus by an object that doesn’t have a medical purpose
- **Other types of abuse**—include abandonment and threats of harm.

# EFFECTS OF CHILD ABUSE

## **Effects of Child Abuse**

- Studies have shown that abuse and neglect may negatively affect children's physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development, resulting in a decreased ability to regulate anxiety and emotions, the inability to control emotions, depression, and learning difficulties, among other problems.

## **Victims of child abuse often suffer from:**

- Inability to trust, which leads to problems in relationships
- Feelings of guilt, anger, and low self-esteem
- A tendency toward alcohol and drug abuse
- Eating disorders
- Suicidal thoughts and suicide
- These effects may continue long after the abuse has stopped, even into adulthood.

## **Victims of child abuse also tend to:**

- Engage in criminal activity at a higher rate than the general population.
- More likely than others to engage in risky sexual behavior.

# THE DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE AND CHILD MOLESTATION

- The precise legal definition of child sexual abuse or molestation varies from state to state, but in general includes any form of sexual contact or exploitation in which a minor is being used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator. In this training the term molestation and sexual abuse will be used interchangeably.
- Sexual abuse is a general term for any type of sexual activity inflicted on a child by someone with whom the child is acquainted. It is considered an especially serious crime because the abuser occupies a position of trust. Child sexual abuse can take place within the family, either by a parent, step-parent, sibling or other relative; or outside the home, for example, by a friend, neighbor, child care person, teacher, or stranger.
- Abuse includes any sexual activity, including any involuntary or nonconsensual sexual conduct. Sexual activity includes, but is not limited to, kissing, hugging, stroking, or fondling with sexual intent; oral sex or sexual intercourse; and request, suggestion or encouragement for the performance of sex.
- Child sexual abuse can be violent or non-violent, but all child sexual abuse is an exploitation of a child's vulnerability and powerlessness in which the abuser is fully responsible for the actions.
- Child sexual abuse or molestation is **CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR** that involves children in sexual behaviors for which they are not personally, emotionally, socially, or developmentally ready.

- Child sexual abuse has been reported up to 90,000 times a year. However, **the number of unreported instances is far greater**, often because the children are afraid to tell anyone what has happened and the legal procedure for validating or proving an episode is difficult. Regardless, the problem should be identified, the abuse stopped, and the child should receive professional help. The long-term emotional and psychological damage of sexual abuse can be devastating to the child.
- Growing awareness of the problem has led legislatures to enact reporting requirements, which mandate that any professional person (doctor, nurse, teacher, social worker) who knows or has reason to believe that a child is being sexually abused report this information to the local child protection agency or law enforcement department.

# THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHILD MOLESTER

A child molester is described as a person older than the victim, male or female, who experiences any type of sexual act with a child. The majority of child molesters are male.

## Who is the typical child molester?

Some of the myths surrounding child sexual abuse involve minimizing the responsibility of the offender by placing the blame on the victims and/or the offender's careers for the offence. Other myths suggest that sexual abuse is committed mainly by strangers even though it is widely known that most children who are victims of abuse know their abuser/molester. There are also myths which suggest that a child sex offender is somehow identifiable by their appearance. This is dangerous because it allows organizations and individuals to fall victim to the "Stranger Danger" by believing that molesters are creepy or weird "dirty old men" or "strangers in trench coats."

These are all dangerous misconceptions which can be easily taken advantage of by a child sex offender looking to access children.

# MYTHS AND FACTS RELATING TO A CHILD MOLESTER

MYTH	FACT
<b>Child sex offenders are creepy or weird looking.</b>	Child sex offenders usually present themselves very normally. Most will go to work and participate in community life without drawing attention to themselves.
<b>Child sex offenders are 'dirty old men'</b>	Child sex offenders will continue until they are caught regardless of what age they began abusing children. While it is true that most sex offenders are men it is inaccurate to characterize them as 'old'.
<b>Strangers are the biggest threat to children</b>	The traditional image of the 'stranger' as the child molester is mistaken.
<b>He was sexually abused as a child, so he could not help it</b>	Some people who sexually abuse children were also sexually abused as children. However, most people who have been sexually abused do NOT become sex offenders. Recent research has found that sex offenders are more likely to have experienced physical and emotional abuse, including bullying, in their childhood and this appears to be a factor in sexually abusive behaviors.

**Women never sexually abuse children**

Although the majority of child sex offenders are men, women are also known to sexually abuse children.

**It only happened once, and he promised it would never happen again**

It is rare for a sexual offence to be a one-time only occurrence, and generally sex offenders are prosecuted for fewer abuses than they have actually committed. Sex offenders have limited commitment to change as they have already crossed substantial legal, social, and ethical boundaries to commit the offence.

**The incidence of child sexual abuse is grossly exaggerated and is more a sensationalized media story**

Most stories of child sexual abuse never become public. As many as 95% of child sex offenders DO NOT have criminal convictions for these crimes. It is estimated that only about 10% of offenders are prosecuted and only half of these are convicted.



# TYPES OF CHILD MOLESTERS

## **Preferential Offenders**

- These people have a particular sexual preference for children of a particular age, gender or a child with specific physical characteristics.
- They are extremely dangerous because of their predatory nature.
- They are proactive in seeking their victim and aggressively engage in bold and repeated attempts to molest a child.
- They also invest significant amounts of time, energy, money and other resources to fulfill their sexual desires.
- They tend to have excessive interest in children, seek access to children, and frequently move to avoid capture.
- They also may maintain pornographic collections and photograph children and/or their victims.

The preferential offender may seem like they would be the ideal children's worker. They enjoy children and socialize well among children. One preferential offender may have hundreds of victims in a lifetime.

The best way to deter this kind of offender is to develop an environment that puts the offender, rather than the child, at risk. No one-on-one contact, proper Paired Adult Supervision and accountability will help discourage this type of offender.

## **Situational Sex Offenders**

- are much more common in society than preferential sex offenders, but they tend to have fewer victims.
- are opportunistic and engage in misconduct when the opportunity presents itself.
- are indiscriminate concerning whom they molest and tend to act completely on impulse.

An example of a situational sex offender would be a person who plans various activities for his youth. After the activity he takes several of the children home. The last person to be dropped off is often a young girl who comes from a dysfunctional family. The offender develops a pattern where he and the girl sit in the car and talk for an extended period of time. One thing leads to another, the opportunity presents itself and the offender has a sexual relationship with the girl.

**Just as with the preferential offender, to reduce the risk of situational molestation organizations must create an environment of accountability. No one-on-one contact and proper Paired Adult Supervision and accountability will help reduce the risk of sexual molestation.**

# METHODS OF OPERATION OF CHILD MOLESTERS

- Child molesters could employ any of the following methods or strategies to gain access to a child.
- **Seduction**—the molester usually is known to the child. He spends time with the child and normally is trusted by the child. The initial contact with the child is nonsexual but over time advances to be sexual in nature. Molesters may use pornography to lower the sexual inhibitions of the child. The abuser may also use a technique called “grooming”.
- **Grooming** – this is a gradual and subtle process and tends to have extraordinary power. It desensitizes the victim to increasingly inappropriate behavior while rewarding the victim for tolerance of that inappropriate behavior.
- **Trickery**—molesters can be creative in using the natural desires of a child. Children see adults as authority figures; children are also naturally curious and need attention and affection. A molester may use these natural tendencies to trick the child into a situation where molestations could occur. Molesters will isolate a child from adult supervision where the child will be more vulnerable to molestation.

## **Other methods employed include;**

- **Force** — usually there is very little a child can do to resist force. When force is used the child rarely is acquainted with the molester.
- **Secrecy** is the common thread in all of these methods of operation. Secrecy is maintained by several methods and includes but are not limited to:
  - **Bribery**—this could include gifts, animals or any favors that interest a child.
  - **Blame**—the molester tells the child they are at fault for what has happened.
  - **Embarrassment**—children realize that what has taken place is wrong.
  - **Loss of Affection**—often the molester is a person that is loved by the child.
  - **Displaced Responsibility**—the child blames himself or herself for the molestation.
  - **Threats**—Molester will threaten the child or someone in the child's family with physical harm.

# POSSIBLE SIGNS OF A CHILD MOLESTER

- Adults who spend an excessive amount of time with children.
- Adults who prefer the company of children to adult relationships.
- Adults who single out one child for “special” attention.
- Someone who seems to spend money on children with whom they have no explainable relationship.

# WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

**Parents can prevent or lessen the chance of sexual abuse by:**

- **Telling children that if someone tries to touch their genitals to say NO to that person and tell you about it right away.**
- **Teaching children that respect does not mean blind obedience to adults and others in authority.**
- **Encouraging professional prevention programs in the local school system.**
- **Parents can stay during private lessons or “drop in” on lessons.**
- **Ask their child questions if they receive a gift of money from someone that may not be expected or appropriate.**

# SIGNS/SYMPTOMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE A CHILD MIGHT DISPLAY

Sometimes there may be signs of sexual abuse even though a child may not speak to you about it. There are many signs and symptoms to look for that may indicate that abuse has occurred, especially if more than one symptom is present.

Often there are no obvious external or physical signs of child sexual abuse. Also, some signs can only be detected on physical exam by a physician. Listed in the next slides are some symptoms that may be demonstrated by a child that is being abused sexually or otherwise. Many times an individual that does not know the child well may not recognize changes in the child's behavioral patterns. People that spend time on a regular basis with the particular child may more easily recognize the changes. **Because it is not unusual for a child not to report abuse, we need to be aware of the symptoms that may be exhibited.** Children who have been abused might exhibit several symptoms or no symptoms at all. However, we should pay attention when a child exhibits the following symptoms:

- Sexual sophistication beyond their developmental stage
- Seductiveness
- Avoidance of things related to sexuality, or rejection of their own genitals or bodies
- Nightmares and/or bed wetting
- Drastic changes in appetite
- Over compliance or excessive aggression
- Fear of a particular person or family member
- Withdrawal, secretiveness, or depression
- Suicidal behavior
- Eating disorders
- Self-injury



- Torn, stained, or bloody underwear
- Pain or itching in the genital area
- Bruises or bleeding of the genitalia
- Inappropriate sex play with peers or toys
- Fascination with pornography
- Fear of touch
- Abuse of animals
- Masturbation in public
- Apprehension when sexual abuse is mentioned
- Cross dressing

The previous list of signs and symptoms may be a serious indicator of sexual abuse and a person noticing these symptoms should pay particular attention to a child exhibiting those symptoms or behaviors. The presence of any of these behaviors may indicate that sexual abuse has occurred. Please understand, however, that these behaviors are not, in and of themselves, conclusive evidence that a child has been abused.

Child sexual abusers can make the child extremely fearful of telling, and only when a special effort has helped the child to feel safe, can or will the child talk freely. If a child says that he or she has been molested, parents should try to remain calm and reassure the child that what happened was not their fault and you should contact your local child protection services or police office immediately.

# DID YOU KNOW?

- Most children are abused by someone they know.
- Many people are afraid of reporting sexual abuse. That includes those people who are being abused as well as people, like you and me, who might be afraid of getting someone in trouble if you report the abuse.
- Most sexual abuse is probably never reported to authorities.
- It is estimated that as many as one in three cases of child sexual abuse is not remembered by the adults who experienced the abuse as a child. The younger the child at the time of the abuse and the closer the relationship to the abuser, the less likely the individual, as an adult, will remember the abuse.

# HOW TO REPORT ABUSE AT A FUSTA EVENT/ACTIVITY

Many people don't know where to report suspected child abuse. Some people are afraid to report child abuse because of possible repercussions to the child or to themselves. Here is what you should do...

- Any suspicion or belief that any child is, or had been, physically, emotionally or sexually abused or exposed to any form of violence, threat or obscene material, regardless of the age of the child or whether the child is involved in a FUSTA event, is to be reported to local authorities.
- Remove child from immediate danger, call “911” only if an extreme emergency exists.
- If the abuse is within the family, report it to the local Child Protection Agency.
- If the abuse is outside of the family, report it to the police.
- Individuals reporting in good faith are immune from prosecution. The agency receiving the report will conduct an evaluation and will take action to protect the child

**When reporting a suspected incident of abuse, please remember the sensitive nature of this type of report. Please always maintain the highest level of confidentiality.**

# HOW TO AVOID BEING ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE OR CHILD MOLESTATION

The following policies serve to protect adults from false accusations of abuse as well as to protect dancers from abuse.

**Paired adult supervision.** No adult, with the exception of a parent, should be allowed to be alone with a dancer in an isolated place. In situations that require personal conferences or a private lesson, the meeting or lesson should be conducted in view of other adults.

- **No child or teenager should sit on the lap of an adult.** No adult should allow a child or teenager to sit on his/her lap. The only exception would be the parent of the child.
- **Frontal hugs.** An adult from time to time may feel a child's need for hug, in order to support or comfort the child. The adult should use a shoulder to shoulder hug.
- **Respect of privacy.** Adults must respect the privacy of dancers in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers. An adult would only intrude to the extent that the health and or safety of the child would be in question. In the case of safety, one adult may enter the private area, but whenever possible two adults should be present. Children/dancers must also respect the privacy of the adults in these situations.

- **Appropriate attire.** Adults will be dressed appropriately at all times. Clothes such as swimsuits, shorts, and tops should not to be revealing or suggestive in any way.
- **Rough housing or hazing is prohibited.** An adult will not wrestle, tickle, or in any way engage a child or teenager in an activity where the adult's hands might come in contact with the breasts or genital area of the child. No adult or child is to participate in any kind of hazing or initiation activity.

*NOTE: Adults must monitor each other, not to accuse, but rather to protect each other in case of an allegation.*

# HOW TO PREVENT CHILD-TO-CHILD OR DANCER-TO-DANCER ABUSE

- **Child/dancer visibility.** Try to maintain visual contact with our child whenever we can and try not to allow any child/dancer to be alone with another child/dancer out of sight of adults or other children/dancers.
- **Adult supervision.** Adults are to supervise all activities of the children/dancers, both organized and unorganized. The child/dancer is not allowed to enter into any bullying activities.
- **Older dancers.** Older dancers who tend to spend a great deal of time with younger dancers should be encouraged to engage in activities with their appropriate peer group.
- **Reporting by a child/dancer.** When a child/dancer reports a situation that makes him/her uncomfortable, the adult must take action to protect the child/dancer.

# RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

When a child tells an adult that he or she has been sexually abused, the report must be taken at face value. Many adults may feel uncomfortable and may not know what to say or do. FUSTA recommends the following guidelines be used when responding to children who say they have been sexually abused:



# WHAT TO SAY

If a child even hints in a vague way that sexual abuse has occurred, encourage him or her to talk freely. Never make judgmental comments.

- Show that you understand what the child is saying and you are taking it seriously. Child and adolescent psychiatrists have found that children who are listened to and understood do much better than those who are not. The correct response to the disclosure of sexual abuse is critical to the child's ability to resolve and heal the trauma of sexual abuse.
- Assure the child that they did the right thing in telling. A child who is close to their abuser may feel guilty about revealing their secret. The child may feel frightened especially if the abuser has threatened to harm the child or other family members as punishment for telling the secret.
- Tell the child that he or she is not to blame for the sexual abuse. In order to rationalize the abuse, most children will believe that somehow they caused it or may even view it as a form of punishment for imagined or real wrongdoings.

- Remember, when a child or teenager confides in you, allow him/her to feel that you care, you are listening, and you will do what is necessary to be of help. It is also helpful to sit at eye level with the child and to remember to keep your conversation from being overheard by others. It is not your role to question or determine the facts or to suggest that the child was or was not abused. Simply let the child know how much you admire the courage and confidence it took to share what has happened.
- Lastly, report the abuse to local police or child protective services and encourage the child to be responsive to contact and questions from social workers or law enforcement.

# WHAT TO DO

- Any suspicion or belief that any child is, or has been, physically, emotionally or sexually abused or exposed to any form of violence, threat or obscene material, regardless of the age of the child or whether the child is involved in a FUSTA event, is to be reported to local authorities immediately.
- If the abuse is within the family, report it to the local Child Protection Agency.
- If the abuse is outside of the family, report it to the police.
- Individuals reporting in good faith are immune from prosecution.
- The agency receiving the report will conduct an evaluation and will take action to protect the child.

# NOT SURE HOW TO REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE?

If you are still unsure how to report any suspected incidents of child abuse please go to this link to find more information for what to do in your state...

[https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/reslist/rl\\_dsp.cfm?rs\\_id=5&rate\\_chno=11-11172](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/reslist/rl_dsp.cfm?rs_id=5&rate_chno=11-11172)

# VARIOUS SCENARIOS AND DISCUSSION POINTS

In this section there will be two scenarios for discussion. After discussing the scenarios, we will discuss the child abuse reporting procedures. Let's get to the scenarios...

# SCENARIO ONE

- In this scenario you observe an adult who appears to be asking a child to accompany him alone into the changing area. You see another adult point out to him one-on-one situations are not allowed. A few minutes later you observe the same adult attempting the same thing with another child.

# WHY ARE ONE-ON-ONE SITUATIONS NOT ALLOWED IN FUSTA EVENTS?

- Sexual abuse is much more likely to occur when the child is isolated with an offender.
- Additionally, even if no abuse takes place in such a setting, it increases the acceptance and “comfort” of the child in being alone with an adult, and it could be an attempt by the adult to “groom” the child.
- The intent of the no one-on-one policy is to protect not only our children, but also our adult members.

# **WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WHEN A FUSTA MEMBER OR VOLUNTEER VIOLATES THE POLICIES AFTER HAVING THEM EXPLAINED?**

- Even if no abuse occurs, members and other volunteers in FUSTA must obey the rules.
- When they demonstrate an unwillingness to follow the rules, they must be expelled from the event/activity and reported to the person in charge of the activity and the FUSTA President as soon as possible.
- The FUSTA Executive Board will determine any follow-up action—up to and including revocation of membership in FUSTA.



# **IS STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES REALLY NECESSARY?**

**Yes, in order for child protection to be meaningful, we must eliminate opportunities where abuse could be committed. FUSTA's Child Protection Policies help limit the opportunities for abuse to occur, but only if those policies are enforced.**

# SCENARIO TWO

In this scenario, during a private lesson there was an emergency and you had to take the child to the hospital in your car. No other adult was present in the car. The child's parents have since made a complaint against you, alleging that you touched the child inappropriately.

# WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?

We will never know for sure, however, we do know that the adult was alone with the child in the car violating the 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point of FUSTA's policy to help prevent child abuse stating that "FUSTA encourages its members to limit private, one-on-one contact between adults and underage dancers as much as possible. This would include "private lessons". During private lessons, FUSTA feels it is in the teacher's own best interest to have a parent, guardian or another person present during the lesson in order to avoid any action or conduct being misinterpreted or "misunderstood."

# **IN THIS CASE WHAT SHOULD THE ACTION BE?**

**No action by FUSTA is necessary in this instance since the parents of the child reported the alleged incident to local authorities who would regulate the accused person's present and future contact with children.**

**This incident should be used by the FUSTA membership and adult volunteers to take the child protection policies seriously not only to protect children, but to also protect adult members of FUSTA from false accusations against them.**

# REPORTING PROCEDURES

- Regardless of whether the child is in Highland dancing, any suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically, emotionally or sexually abused, exploited or exposed to any form of violence, threat, pornography or obscene material should be reported to local police and child protection agency. If at a FUSTA event also report to the person in charge of the event and to the FUSTA President. This report must be made even if the violations may not constitute abuse.

# ONE LAST THING

- It is important to understand that legal definitions of child maltreatment vary from state to state. Because of that, you should consult your local child protection agency regarding the legal definitions in your area.
- Child protection agencies should be viewed as consultants. If you have concerns, but are not certain if it is something that should be reported, please call and consult with them.

- Review the presentation as many times as you want and then please take the Child Protection Training Test found here: <http://www.fusta.us/otherforms.aspx>
- Any training participants successfully completing the session and the post-test are certified as Child Protection-trained and will be added to the FUSTA Certified Child Protection Training list. Please be sure to include your name, mailing address, email address and phone on your completed test form.
- Either email or regular mail your test answers to Sharon Farrar at [sharon.m.farrar@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.m.farrar@gmail.com) or 18 Flintlock Lane, Bell Canyon, CA 90307.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Starting with **2013** registration, **ALL** FUSTA members **MUST** be certified in Child Protection Training in order to register with FUSTA.
- Certification **must** be completed by November 30, 2012 in order to be eligible to renew FUSTA membership for 2013.
- Mandatory Certification begins in 2012 and is valid for 3 years. Renewal of Certification is mandatory every 3 years after 2012 (2015, 2018, 2021, etc.). ALL FUSTA members, regardless of the year they certify or join FUSTA, will need to renew their certification during the next FUSTA designated renewal year after they join or originally certify (2015, 2018, 2021, etc.) and then every 3 years thereafter.



# SOURCES

- **United States Department of Health and Human Services**
- **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**
- **Boy Scouts of America**
- **Unicef**
- **World Health Organization**
- **Deborah Lowery, MSW Director, Center for Human Services, UC Davis**