

# HOW TO SUPPORT

## A CHILD AFTER DISCLOSURE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

### BELIEVE THEM.

Do not dismiss the fears and anxiety they might be going through. Assure them of your love and support. "I believe you" are powerful words.

### DON'T INTERROGATE

Questioning or interrogating a child about the abuse can re-traumatize the child. Hope Haven has specially trained forensic interviewers to allow the child to tell their story only once in a safe and supportive environment.

@HOPEHAVENCAC

### Make a Report

Make a report of the abuse to Child Protective Services.

1-800-222-8000 (Nationwide)

Call 911 if the child is in immediate danger.

### Help them heal.

If your child has experienced sexual abuse, help them heal by being loving, patient, kind, and supportive.

Therapy for the child and/or family may be appropriate.

### HELP STOP FUTURE ABUSE.

Prevention is key. Darkness to Light Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse Prevention training program can help parents and adults in the community prevent child abuse. Parenting courses can also give parents the tools and skills to support their child and prevent abuse.