



GATEWAY  
REGION YMCA

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

Did you know that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys in the U.S. experience sexual abuse by the age of 18?

**The Gateway Region YMCA's top priority is the safety of the youth in our programs and services. As a parent and grandparent, as well as a YMCA employee for more than 30 years, I understand the importance of delivering upon this promise and the great responsibility involved in doing so. I, along with my team, take this responsibility very seriously.**

At the Y, we take the following actions to help keep kids safe in our facilities and programs:

- Requiring criminal background checks for staff and volunteers
- Requiring training for staff and volunteers on preventing and responding to child abuse
- Requiring staff and volunteers to report child abuse in accordance with applicable laws
- Screening our adult members in our facilities against a national sex offender registry and written protocol for how to respond when adults are identified as registered sex offenders
- Teach children about appropriate and inappropriate touching through our personal safety talks
- Carefully supervisor and monitor our programs
- Limit circumstances in which staff and volunteers are alone with a child or teen where others cannot observe them
- Ensure our association staff team works regularly with external child protection experts to provide continuous training and education in abuse prevention.
- Implement child sexual abuse prevention practices and policies to remain a member in good standing with the National Council of YMCAs.

It's our responsibility as a Y team to understand the risks and red flags of child abuse and what we can do to respond to abuse when we see it. It's also our responsibility to educate and share this knowledge with the broader community, including the parents of youth in our programs, in an effort to help prevent abuse.

Thank you for doing your part to help protect children in our community.



Tim Helm, President & CEO

For additional Child Abuse Prevention Resources:  
Gateway Region YMCA main office: 314-436-1177  
Illinois Department of Child and Family Services,  
[click here](#).  
Missouri Department of Social Services, [click here](#).