

## **Types of Child Sexual Abuse?**

At the extreme end of the spectrum, sexual abuse includes sexual intercourse or its deviations. Yet all offences that involve sexually touching a child, as well as non-touching offenses and sexual exploitation, are just as harmful and devastating to a child's well-being.

Touching sexual offenses include:

- Fondling a child's genital area
- Making a child touch an adult's sexual organs; and
- Penetrating a child's vagina or anus or mouth no matter how slight with a penis or any object that doesn't have a valid medical purpose.

Non-touching sexual offenses include:

- Engaging in indecent exposure or exhibitionism;
- Exposing children to pornographic material;
- Deliberately exposing a child to the act of sexual intercourse and sexual activity; and
- Masturbating in front of a child.

Sexual exploitation can include:

- Engaging a child or soliciting a child for the purposes of prostitution; and
- Using a child to film, photograph or model pornography.

These definitions are broad. In most states, the legal definition of child molestation is an act of a person—adult or child—who forces, coerces or threatens a child to have any form of sexual contact or to engage in any type of sexual activity at the perpetrator's direction.

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