

# Letter from Ray Hoffman

## April 2023

Jun 4

From: Raymond Hoffmann <rayjh76@icloud.com>

Date: April 25, 2023 at 11:51.55 AM EDT

Subject: CSA info

Dear Friends,

Recent events have made us more aware of our need to continue learning how to properly respond to any report of child sexual abuse. We are sad to think that a lack of awareness in the past may have caused more hurt or prevented healing for victims. We value the trust among us as we seek to follow Christ and want to do our part to foster a safe environment for all.

Abuse of any kind has no place in God's family and any incident of child sexual abuse is a crime. If you reasonably suspect that a child or juvenile is being sexually abused, please report it to the authorities. Reports can be made to local police or by calling an abuse hotline such as 800-656-HOPE.

When we hear about another person's sin, we may desire to not expose it. But in the case of child sexual abuse, not reporting is against the law, prevents victims from getting the help they need, and allows perpetrators to continue their devastating behavior. A perpetrator of child sexual abuse is not easily identifiable by personality, and will generally offend repeatedly given the opportunity. Therefore, it is crucial to report suspected child sexual abuse.

To help prevent and detect child sexual abuse, we continue to require each member of our staff to complete the MinistrySafe Awareness Training every two years. This course is very helpful and is available for anyone to take.

We encourage you to be educated on these topics. It is highly recommended that parents read the summary of information found in this link and watch the Parent Training video by MinistrySafe (which is currently free during National Child Abuse Prevention Month). If you are an adult who was a victim of abuse, the RAINN.org online chat or phone hotline can connect you with support services in your area.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any one of us.

Thank you,

The PA/NY/NEng Workers