



**My child has revealed
a situation of
sexual violence**



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In Québec, any alleged situation of sexual violence must be reported and assessed by the authorities, namely by a police service or the Director of Youth Protection, by means of a non-suggestive interview. This approach will allow relevant professionals to confirm whether the situation of sexual violence is well founded or not.

For a child aged 13 and under to have access to Marie-Vincent services, the situation of sexual violence must be substantiated by investigators or DYP caseworkers. An adolescent can access services even if the situation of sexual violence has not been acknowledged as well founded.

How can I support my child or teenager after he or she has been victim of sexual violence?

- By telling them that you believe him or her.
- By protecting him or her from the abuser.
- By seeking help from resources specialized in dealing with sexual violence.
- By allowing your child to express their feelings about the situation of sexual violence or its repercussions and acknowledging them.

How to talk about the sexual assault with my child or teenager?

Your child's disclosure and his or her verbalization are often the only "evidence" supporting the situation of sexual violence. It is important to avoid asking specific questions about the situation, as they could lead to new facts and influence the child's disclosure.

In order to establish a situation of sexual violence, investigators or the DYP must have access to the version that is closest to the reality. However, if he or she expresses the need to talk about it, your silence or avoiding the subject could upset and worry your child. As such, you should welcome your child's statements, thank him or her for trusting you and emphasize their bravery.

Strategies we recommend:

- **Avoid questioning the child** about the sexual violence he or she experienced.
- **Get down to the child's eye level.** Maintain eye contact with your child when he or she is talking and don't interrupt.
- **Make sure you understand** the emotions your child is describing. They may also be expressed through physical pain like headaches or stomach aches.
- **Tell your child that you are ready to listen** if he or she needs to talk.
- **Remind your child** that he or she did the right thing in revealing the situation of sexual violence, regardless of the impact it has on the family.
- If your child's comments make you emotional, explain your emotional reaction and **emphasize that it is not your child's fault.**



L'Indemnisation aux victimes d'actes criminels (IVAC)

A victim of a criminal offence may receive financial assistance and be entitled to a range of suitable services.

This compensation is provided for by law and aims to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and facilitate their recovery*.

Parents can complete a compensation form for their child and for themselves, either online or with the help of a caseworker. This will ensure that, if need be, any costs associated with a psychosocial intervention approach or psychotherapy will be covered by the IVAC.

* From the IVAC website: <https://www.ivac.qc.ca/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Specialised intervention program in sexual violence

Crisis
INTERVENTION



Learn more about our clinical
services at marie-vincent.org/eng



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