

*As the result of the abuse,  
the victim may experience  
the following reactions:*

- ◆ Anger
- ◆ Shame/Guilt
- ◆ Powerlessness/Depression
- ◆ Anxiety/Helplessness
- ◆ Responsibility for the Abuse
- ◆ Confusion about Roles/Identity/  
Sexuality
- ◆ Loss of Control/Need to be in Control
- ◆ Suicidal Ideation
- ◆ Amnesia/Forgetting Parts of Childhood
- ◆ Addictive Behaviors - Escaping into  
Work/Chemical/Diversions
- ◆ Having Problems Sleeping/Eating
- ◆ Nightmares/Flashbacks
- ◆ Difficulty with Trust and Intimacy

*If you are a male victim of sexual violence,  
contact Support Within Reach for a  
confidential listening ear, learn about options  
and resources, and more.*

### Available Services:

Crisis Intervention ~ Ongoing Support  
Assistance in obtaining Protection Orders  
~ Information ~ Referrals ~  
Support Groups ~ Follow-up Assistance



#### **Itasca County Office:**

1325 4th Street NW  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218.326.5008 • 866.747.5008

#### **Aitkin County Office:**

204 2nd Street NW  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
218.927.6266 • 866.747.5008



*Sexual Violence and  
Male Victims*

#### Funding Sources:



Blandin Foundation™  
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA



OTTO BREMER FOUNDATION



**SAFEZONE**  
Show your colors.

*“Our culture provides no room for a man as a victim. Men are simply not supposed to be victimized. A “real” man is expected to protect himself in any situation.”*

*(Mike Lew, Victims No Longer)*

Sexual assault/abuse can totally upset a male’s belief that his world is a safe place, and that he is in control of his sexuality and his body. Boys are taught that their maleness is rooted in their ability to achieve and sustain personal, economic and sexual power at all times. Most men who are survivors of sexual violence have a lot of questions about their sexuality and masculinity. Sexual assault/abuse is not about sex or sexual orientation, it is a crime of violence motivated by a need for power and control. Sex is used as a weapon to humiliate and degrade the victim. If you are a survivor of sexual violence you are not alone, however it may feel like you are alone if you keep it to yourself.

*Sexual violence is legally defined as any sexual contact to which one party does not, or cannot, give consent. Many offenses come under this category, including:*

- Rape
- Sexual contact (such as touching or grabbing)
- Sexual abuse of children
- Incest
- Sexual harassment
- Inappropriate sexual remarks
- Exposing a minor to pornography
- Indecent exposure
- Obscene phone calls
- Sexual exploitation of clients by professionals



## *The Facts about Male Sexual Violence*

- ◆ Boys and men are victims.
- ◆ A significant number of sex crime victims are men. These are not men in prison cells; they are husbands, boyfriends and sons.
- ◆ 1 out of every 6 males is sexually assaulted before the age of 18.
- ◆ Generally, the abuser is someone the victim knows and trusts, or a person in position of authority. (However; adolescent boys and adult males are more likely to be sexually assaulted by a stranger.)
- ◆ The offender can be male or female, a family member, older friend, babysitter, leader in a youth program or church group, a neighbor, or someone the victim doesn’t know.
- ◆ Only 4% of sexual assaults on males are perpetrated by homosexuals.
- ◆ Anyone, regardless of their gender, strength, or ability to take care of themselves can be a victim of sexual assault.
- ◆ Only 1 in 33 men report sexual violence.