Child and Adolescent Crisis Intervention and Counseling in Camden County, Georgia

Purpose

To provide information that helps people recognize, communicate, avoid, and respond to child and adolescent crisis situations. The content and distribution of this document are intended to improve awareness, facilitate communications, and stimulate networking – cultivating productive relationships between individuals, families, community members, and local agencies – enhancing the delivery and effectiveness of child and adolescent counseling, crisis avoidance and intervention in Camden County Georgia.

Notes: (1) Some listed organizations provide other social, medical, and human services that are beyond the scope of this document. (2) No recommendation or evaluation is implied in this document. (3) At a minimum, this document will be updated and published each January. (4) Widest distribution is encouraged and requested. [http://helpingneighbors.weebly.com/](http://helpingneighbors.weebly.com/)
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Executive Summary

This document is provided as a community service for widest public dissemination. It is a consolidation of selected articles from referenced organizations and subject matter experts – defining and discussing the social and developmental challenges confronting children and teenagers in our community; as well as options and resources for preemptive and remedial actions. In electronic format, this document employs hyperlinks; facilitating access to related information – internal and external to this document.

The Problem:

- As a minor – a young person, have you ever said: “I am in jeopardy (or in harm’s way) and I do not know who to turn to for advice and help.”? Or,
- As a concerned person – of any age, have you ever said:
  - “I wonder if that young person is in jeopardy (or harm’s way) – how can I tell?”; or
  - “I know this young person that is in jeopardy (or harm’s way) and I do not know how to help or who to inform.”

The Purpose of the document is to help people in Camden County Georgia find the information needed to answer these questions – to help reestablish and maintain the wellbeing of the young person in question.

The Method that this document uses to satisfy the stated purpose is to present child and adolescent crisis-specific quick-guides; designed to help the reader understand basic information regarding the crisis scenario – including possible immediate actions and how to connect with first tier (immediate response and gateway) and second tier (supplemental response) resources.

The Appendix provides an alphabetical list of referral, counseling, and intervention resources; as well as related information, training opportunities, and seminar schedules.

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Introduction

Children – also referred to as minors – pass through several stages on their road to becoming adults. For most people, there are four stages of growth where they learn and develop: infancy (birth to age 2), early childhood (ages 3 to 8 years), later childhood (ages 9 to 12) and adolescence (ages 13 to 18). In our society, with few exceptions, a legal adult is a person who has attained the age of majority (i.e. 18) and is therefore regarded as independent, self-sufficient, and responsible.

As you read this document and the cited references, you will notice differences in age-group definitions. In this document, a child is a person that is pre-pubescent and an adolescent is a person that has reached puberty through to the legal age of adulthood – 18. When the condition, factor or subject discussed is specific to a child or adolescent, the applicability is specified in the explanation. Otherwise, the group-terms child and adolescent are equally applicable for the subject being discussed.

For children, adolescents and their parents, age-appropriate development is a time of excitement and of anxiety; of happiness and of troubles; of discovery and of bewilderment; and of breaks with the past and links with the future. It is a confusing time – for the child and adolescent experiencing these phases of life; for the parents who are nurturing their child during his or her progression through these stages; for other adults charged with enhancing the development of youth during this period of life, and – with disturbing, historically unprecedented frequency – for adolescents who themselves find themselves in the role of parents.

The key function of a child's family is to raise the young person in as healthy a manner as possible. The parents' role is to provide the child with a safe, secure, nurturing, loving, and supportive environment – one that allows the offspring to have a happy and healthy youth. This sort of experience allows the youth to develop the knowledge, values, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to become an adult making a productive contribution to self, family, community, and society. What a parent does to fulfill these "duties" of his or her role is termed parenting; in other words, parenting is a term that summarizes behaviors used by a person – usually, but, of course, not exclusively, the mother or father – to raise a child.

Unfortunately, not all of our youth live in a stable, nurturing family environment. Also, some well-meaning parents and families are not up to the task – the confrontation – the crisis – presented by their young family member. These variations influence both the way parents interact with youth and, in turn, the behavior of children and adolescents.

With the receipt of comments and constructive criticism from our community, this document will be further developed and refined; continuing with the objective to fill the information gap regarding crisis avoidance and intervention from the perspective of the child and adolescent; as well as the parents and adults charged with enhancing the development of youth in Camden County, Georgia.

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Child and Adolescent Crisis Intervention and Counseling Quick-Guides

A set of crisis-specific information is provided in this “Quick-Guide” section. Each “Quick-Guide” includes:

- A general definition of the subject condition or event;
- A brief statement regarding the condition or event indicators, warning signs, and/or risk factors;
- Available immediate and/or initial response actions; and
- Contact information for education, counsel, and Intervention.

Referenced organizations, subject matter experts, and information details can be accessed by selecting the hyperlink embedded in key words and phrases.

Note: To view some videos,

- Adobe Flash Player is required
- Flash Player Help / No video display | Flash Player
- How to watch Flash videos on your new iPad
- The App Store alternative for Flash on the iPad
- How To Play Flash Videos On Your iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad

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Maltreatment (Abuse and Neglect) – Crisis Intervention and Counseling Quick-Guide

**Definition**

Maltreatment is any act of commission or omission by a parent or a caregiver (e.g. clergy, coach, or teacher) that results in harm, potential for harm or threat of harm to a child.

- **Child abuse** is an act of commission that deliberately inflicts harm, whether physical or emotional, that results in a child or adolescent experiencing pain, fear, emotional anguish, and distrust. Examples include physical abuse, sexual abuse and psychological abuse.
- **Child neglect** is an act of omission by failing to provide for a child’s basic physical, emotional or educational needs. Examples include providing adequate food, clothing, hygiene, medical care, safety and supervision.

**Warning Signs**

Signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect vary from child to child. Children have different ways of coping so signs depend on each child’s characteristics and environment. Some signs of possible physical abuse may be easy to spot but instances of emotional or sexual abuse may not be immediately evident. Typical indicators of abuse are unexplained injuries, withdrawal, absence from school and unexplained fear or panic.

**Responsive Actions – if you are being abused or neglected:**

- If there is immediate physical danger or a weapon is involved, call 9-1-1 – law enforcement; otherwise,
- If you are injured, go to the Emergency Room at the Southeast Georgia Health System, Camden Campus, 2000 Dan Proctor Dr., St. Marys, Ga.; and/or
- Contact a trusted adult who can help. This includes a relative, a teacher, a coach, or a church leader; and/or
- Contact the Camden County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS):
  - During a weekday from 9-5, call (912) 262-3260
After hours and on holidays and weekends, call (855) 422-4453; and/or

- TEXT “CTL” TO 741741 – The Crisis Text Line (CTL) for free, 24/7, emotional support and information from a trained specialist; and/or

- Members of an active duty military family can also contact the local Fleet and Family Support Center at (912) 573-4512 or (912) 573-4222 for counsel and referral.

**Responsive Actions - If you suspect child or adolescent abuse or neglect:**

- If there is immediate physical danger or a weapon is involved, call 9-1-1 – law enforcement; otherwise,

- **When talking with an abused or neglected young person:** (1) Avoid denial and remain calm. (2) Don’t interrogate - let the young person explain to you in his or her own words what happened; (3) Reassure the young person that they did nothing wrong. (4) Safety comes first. If you feel that your safety or the safety of the young person would be threatened if you try to intervene, make an anonymous report and leave it to the professionals; and/or

- Perform (or help the young person perform) one or more of the actions listed above in “Responsive Actions – if you are being abused or neglected”.

**Notes:**

1) Anyone can report suspected abuse or neglect, and all reports will lead to a professional investigation. Certain groups of professionals and volunteers are mandated by law to report any suspected abuse or neglect. Ga. Code 19-7-5 (revised 2012) expands and clarifies the code regarding volunteers and clergy. An online course is provided at Mandated Reporters: Critical Links in Protecting Children in Georgia.

2) Additional Services: * Gateway Behavioral Services of Camden County, (912) 576-4357; * Family Matters Of Coastal Georgia, Inc.; (912) 510-3770; * Safe Harbor – (912) 729-7620; * CAMDEN COUNTY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) – (912) 882-3119; * Lighthorse Healthcare, Inc. – (912) 207-4695; * USA National Child Abuse Hotline, (800) 422-4453 (24/7)

3) Additional Information: * Camden County Health Needs Assessment; * Facts and Statistics; * Fact Sheets; * Georgia’s Children; * Georgia Youth – Ga. DOE; * Reporting child abuse and neglect; *

4) Additional Videos and Podcasts: * Texting – Crisis Text Line – Who We Are; * This video speaks volumes; * How to Recognize Child Abuse and Neglect; *

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Maltreatment (Bullying) – Crisis Intervention and Counseling Quick-Guide

Definition

Bullying is unwanted aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance in which the victims find it difficult to defend themselves. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or emotional and can occur anywhere, at home, at school or school events, online (cyberbullying) or in a teen dating situation. Bullying acts include making threats, spreading rumors, excluding someone from a group, stalking, ridiculing, or attempting to control the actions or activities of a person in a deliberate hurtful manner.

Warning Signs

Not all children exhibit warning signs, but those who do usually show an abrupt change in behavior. They may have unexplained injuries, lost or destroyed belongings, faked illness, declining school grades, reluctance to go to school or sports programs or engage in self-destructive acts. The speed with which social media can reach a mass audience quickly can result in extremely humiliating messages and visual images. The impact on a child or adolescent being cyberbullied can be immediate and overwhelming, possibly leading to self-abuse or suicidal thoughts or actions. The impact that public embarrassment among peers can place on a young person can be overwhelming.

Responsive Actions – If you are being bullied:

- If there is immediate physical danger or a weapon is involved, call 9-1-1 – law enforcement; otherwise,
- Talk with your parents, a trusted relative, teacher, coach or church leader; and/or
- If you are in an emotional distress or suicidal crisis, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-8255 and speak with a professional counselor; and/or
- TEXT “CTL” TO 741741 – The Crisis Text Line (CTL) for free, 24/7, emotional support and information from a trained specialist; and/or
- Call Georgia’s school safety hotline at 877-SAY-STOP (877-729-7867); and/or
- Specific to cyberbullying, check smartphones and computers for information identifying the bully. Do not respond. If the messages suggest violence, call 9-1-1 – law enforcement; and
- Members of military families may also call the Kings Bay Fleet and Family Support Center at (912) 573-4512 or (912) 573-4222.

**Responsive Actions** – If you suspect that a child or adolescent is being bullied:

- **Be more than a bystander. ... stand up for the person being bullied.**
- If there is immediate physical danger or a weapon is involved, call 9-1-1 – law enforcement; otherwise,
- If the young person tells you that he or she is being bullied:
  - If you are a Teacher in the State of Georgia, engage the [GDOE Bullying Prevention Toolkit](http://gdoe.org) and local school guidelines; or
  - If you are the parent, guardian, or trusted adult, (1) Reassure the young person that you believe him or her; (2) thank him or her for coming to you, and (3) stress that you will help him or her deal with the situation. (Refer to example scripts, guidelines and advice linked in this bullet); and
  - Perform (or help the young person perform) one or more of the actions listed above in “Responsive Actions – If you are being bullied”.

**Notes:**

1) Additional Services: * Gateway Behavioral Services of Camden County, (912) 576-4357; * Family Matters Of Coastal Georgia, Inc., (912) 510-3770; * Safe Harbor – (912) 729-7620; * Camden County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – (912) 882-3119; * Lighthorse Healthcare, Inc. – (912) 207-4695; * USA National Child Abuse Hotline, (800) 422-4453 (24/7); * GLBT National Youth Talk, (800) 246-7743 (Monday-Friday, 4pm-12 am EST/Saturday, 12pm-5pm EST); *

2) Additional Information: * Camden County Health Needs Assessment; * Facts and Statistics; * Fact Sheets; * Georgia’s Children; * Georgia Youth – Ga. DOE; * Reporting child abuse and neglect; * My Child is Being Bullied—What Should I Do; *

3) Additional Videos and Podcasts: * No No Bully Music Video; * No Bullying - School Video - Student Made - Perfect by Pink; * Texting – Crisis Text Line – Who We Are; * You’re Not Alone; * Signs your child is being bullied; * Department of Education: It Gets Better; * Texting – Crisis Text Line – Who We Are; * Teens Speak Out About Bullying; * Kids Talk About Bullying; * Demi Lovato Talks About Cutting Herself; *

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Self-directed Violence (SDV) – Crisis Intervention and Counseling Quick-Guide

Definition

Self-directed violence (SDV) is behavior that deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself and can result in death. Self-directed violence is categorized into the following:

- **Suicidal self-directed violence**: Behavior that deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself. There is evidence, whether implicit or explicit, of suicidal intent.
- **Non-suicidal self-directed violence** – aka Non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI): Behavior that is self-directed and deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself. There is no evidence, whether implicit or explicit, of suicidal intent.

**Note:** NSSI does not include behaviors such as parachuting, gambling, substance abuse, tobacco use or other risk taking activities, such as excessive speeding in motor vehicles. These are complex behaviors some of which are risk factors for SDV but are defined as behavior that while likely to be life-threatening is not recognized by the individual as behavior intended to destroy or injure the self.

Warning Signs of Suicidal Behavior

- A person in acute risk for suicidal behavior may:
  - Threaten to hurt or kill him or herself, or talk about hurting or killing self; and/or
  - Look for ways to kill him/herself by seeking access to firearms, available pills, or other means; and/or,
  - Talk or write excessively about death, dying or suicide.
- Additional Warning Signs include:
  - Increased substance (alcohol or drug) use; and/or
  - Anxiety, agitation, unable to sleep or sleeping all the time; and/or
  - Withdrawal from friends, family and society

Warning Signs of Non-suicidal Self-injury (NSSI) Behavior

- A variety of circumstances or stress can put young people at an increased risk of self-harm. The loss of a loved one, family conflicts, abuse, bullying, or simply feeling overwhelmed by life can cause them to engage in self-injury. Warning signs include:
  - Negative attitudes toward their health or body including eating behaviors such as fasting for binging or abusing alcohol or drugs
  - Mood swings that include depression or schizophrenic behavior
  - Wearing clothing designed to cover or hide self-inflicted cuts, burns, bruises
Responsive Actions – Suicidal Behavior

- If you are experiencing self-directed violence with the intent to die:
  - If there is a weapon involved, Call 9-1-1 – law enforcement; and/or
  - Talk with a trusted adult – a relative, teacher, coach or church leader who can help you obtain help; and/or
  - Go to the Emergency Room at the Southeast Georgia Health System, Camden Campus, 2000 Dan Proctor Dr., St. Marys, Ga.; and/or
  - Contact and talk/text confidentially with a professional counselor trained to listen to your specific concerns and offer assistance. For example:
    - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-TALK (8255); or
    - Boys Town at (800) 448-3000; or
    - The Crisis Text Line (CTL) – TEXT “CTL” TO 741741; and
  - Members of military families may also call the local Fleet and Family Support Center at (912) 573-4512 or (912) 573-4222.

- If you suspect a person is suicidal:
  - Don’t be afraid to ask someone if they are having suicidal thoughts. It could save a life.
  - Help the suicidal person with the actions listed above and/or make the applicable reports/notifications on behalf of the suicidal person; and
  - Without putting yourself in jeopardy, stay with the suicidal person until family or professional assistance is present and engaged; and
  - If you are the youth’s parent or legal guardian, seek professional help and counseling from an appropriate service provider. Examples of local service providers are listed below in “Note: 1) Additional Services”.

Responsive Actions – Non-suicidal Self-injury:

- If you are intentionally hurting yourself, ask for help to stop.
  - Talk to your parents, family members, guardian, Clergy, and/or other adults that you trust; and/or
If you are injured, go to the Emergency Room at the Southeast Georgia Health System, Camden Campus, 2000 Dan Proctor Dr., St. Marys, Ga.; and/or

Using the online form, email SAFE Alternatives for information on seeking help; and/or

Contact and talk/text confidentially with a professional counselor trained to listen to your specific concerns and offer assistance. For example:

- S.A.F.E. Alternatives at (800) DONTCUT (800-366-8288); or
- Boys Town at (800) 448-3000; or
- The Crisis Text Line (CTL) – TEXT “CTL” TO 741741

Members of military families may also call the Kings Bay Fleet and Family Support Center at (912) 573-4512 or (912) 573-4222.

If you suspect a person is intentionally hurting them self – causing immediate destruction of body tissues:

- Help the Non-suicidal Self-injury (NSSI) person with the actions listed above, and/or make the applicable reports/notifications on behalf of the NSSI person; and
- Without putting yourself in jeopardy, stay with the NSSI person until family or professional assistance is present and engaged; and
- If you are the youth’s parent or legal guardian, seek professional help and counseling from an appropriate service provider. Examples of local service providers are listed below in “Note: 1) Additional Services”.

Notes:

1) Additional Services: * Gateway Behavioral Services of Camden County, (912) 576-4357; * Family Matters Of Coastal Georgia, Inc., (912) 510-3770; * Safe Harbor – (912) 729-7620; * CAMDEN COUNTY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) – (912) 882-3119; * Lighthorse Healthcare, Inc. – (912) 207-4695; *Coastal Counseling Center, St. Marys, (912) 729-1120; USA National Child Abuse Hotline, (800) 422-4453 (24/7); * Disaster Distress Helpline, (800) 985-5990, Text “TalkWithUs” to 66746, TTY for Deaf/Hearing Impaired, (800) 846-8517; * and Other local services.

2) Additional Information: What Is Cutting?; * How To Find A Therapist; * Self-Injury In Adolescents; * Camden County Middle School and High School report – Self-harm and Suicide Indicators

3) Additional Videos and Podcasts: * Texting – Crisis Text Line – Who We Are; * Injury Prevention & Control; * Demi Lovato Talks About Cutting Herself; * I Wish I had Someone To Talk To; *

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Violent and Risky Sexual Behaviors – Crisis Intervention and Counseling Quick-Guide

**Definition**

- **Sexual violence (aka sexual assault)** is any **unwanted sexual attention, contact, or activity** that violates a person’s trust, autonomy, and feeling of safety. Violent sexual behavior includes rape, attempted rape, incest, molestation, unwanted fondling, pornography or any action against a child or adolescent that harms them in any sexual manner.

- **Risky sexual behavior** is commonly defined as behavior that increases one’s risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections and experiencing unintended pregnancies. They include having sex at an early age, having multiple sexual partners, having sex while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and unprotected sex.

**Preemptive Actions – Risky Sexual Behavior**

- **Before A Child Becomes Sexually Active**: Sexual activity is occurring at younger years than ever and it is difficult for parents and other caregivers to recognize signs. It may be necessary for parents to begin **sex education** at a very early age to help children understand the consequences of risky sexual behavior. While sex education is offered in public schools, parents should not assume it is sufficient to create necessary guidelines or standards. Parental guidance and role modeling is **necessary at an early age**.

- Before you become sexually active, become informed regarding **contraception**, **Sexually Transmitted Disease** (STD), **pregnancy**, and **teen parenting**.

**Responsive Actions – Sexual Assault**

- **If you have been sexually assaulted**:  
  - Go to a safe location away from the perpetrator.
  - Preserve all evidence of the assault.
  - Do not bathe, wash your hands, brush your teeth, eat, or smoke.
  - If you are still at the location of the crime, do not clean or straighten up or remove anything from your surroundings.
- Write down or audio record all the details you can recall about the attack and the attacker.
- Reach out for help – call 9-1-1 (Law Enforcement); and/or
- Go to the Emergency Room at the Southeast Georgia Health System, Camden Campus, 2000 Dan Proctor Dr., St. Marys, Ga.; and/or
- Contact the Connie Smith Rape Crisis Center in Brunswick at (912) 427-6379; and/or
- Members of military families may also call the Kings Bay Fleet and Family Support Center at (912) 573-4512 or (912) 573-4222; and

**If you know or suspect someone who has been sexually assaulted:**
- Help the victim with the actions listed above; and
- Support the victim – be there and listen.
- Avoid being judgmental, keep from second-guessing and resist placing any blame on the victim.
- Be patient. Remember, it will take the victim some time to deal with the crime.
- Other than safety and health-related questions, try to refrain from asking for details about the incident. Show interest in what the victim says and ask what you can do to help the victim.

### Responsive Actions – Risky Sexual Behavior

- **If you think you may have contracted a STD or may be pregnant:** Talk to an adult that you trust, see your family physician, and/or contact a medical facility to be tested and receive counsel and other assistance. For example:
  - St Marys Clinic, 905 Dilworth Street, (912) 882-8515; or
  - Woodbine Clinic, 1501 Georgia Avenue, (912) 576-3040; or
  - CareNet Pregnancy Center, 203 Lakeshore Point, Suite 203, St. Marys, GA 31558, 912.729.8842, or 877-791-5475 (24/7).
  - Live Online Chat: PregnancyDecisionLine.org
- **If you suspect a child or adolescent may have contracted a STD:** e.g. If the young person complains of unexplained genital itching, pain or discomfort –
  - Take the youth to your family physician or one of the medical facilities listed above in the “Responsive Actions- Risky Sexual Behavior”.
  - If you are a Navy or Marine Corps family, you can also contact the Fleet and Family Services Center at Members of military families may also call the local Fleet and Family Support Center at (912) 573-4512 or (912) 573-4222 for referral.
- **If you suspect an unmarried adolescent is pregnant** – e.g. If she shows signs of pregnancy, like gaining weight, unusual anxiety, refusal to attend school, or other changes in behavior –
  - If under 16, schedule an appointment with a family physician or a contact a medical facility. For example:
• St Marys Clinic, 905 Dilworth Street, St. Marys, (912) 882-8515;
• Woodbine Clinic, 1501 Georgia Avenue, Woodbine, (912) 576-3040; and
• CareNet Pregnancy Center, 203 Lakeshore Point, Suite 203, St. Marys, GA 31558; (912) 729-8842 and (877) 791-5475 (24/7).

  o If you are a Navy or Marine Corps family, you can also contact the Fleet and Family Services Center at (912) 573-4512 or (912) 573-4222 for counseling and/or referral.

  o If the adolescent is 16 or 17 and believes she is prepared for the pregnancy, get the biological father and family involved. Provide counsel and assistance. When necessary, consult with professional services to help the teens and related families understand the financial, legal and moral obligations of minor parents – each critical for the health and wellbeing of the teen parents, the newborn, and the related family members.

Notes:

1) Additional Services: * Gateway Behavioral Services of Camden County, (912) 576-4357; * Family Matters Of Coastal Georgia, Inc.; (912) 510-3770; * Safe Harbor – (912) 729-7620; * CAMDEN COUNTY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) – (912) 882-3119; * Lighthorse Healthcare, Inc. – (912) 207-4695; * Coastal Counseling Center, St. Marys, (912) 729-1120; USA National Child Abuse Hotline, (800) 422-4453 (24/7); and Other local services; * Live Chat with Loveisrespect.org (7 days/week, 5pm-3am EST); * National Teen Dating Abuse 24 Hour Helpline (866) 331-9474/tty: (866) 331-8453 (24/7); * National Domestic Violence Hotline; (800) 799-7233 (24/7); * Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, (800) 656-4673 (24/7); * National Human Trafficking Resource Center, (888) 373-7888, Text BeFree (233733); *

2) Additional Information: * A Timeline for Rape Recovery; *

3) Additional Videos and Podcasts: Texting – Crisis Text Line – Who We Are; * Break the Silence: Stop the Violence; *
Substance Abuse – Crisis Intervention and Counseling Quick-Guide

Definition

Substance abuse is the harmful pattern of children and teens using substances to the degree of impairment, distress, and causing danger to self and others. These substances include: tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs and prescription drugs. Statistics suggest that alcohol and misuse of prescription drugs are on the rise among children and adolescents and that the use of illicit drugs is more widespread than most parents realize.

Warning Signs

Many youth may show symptoms and behaviors that indicate use of a prohibited substance without alarming parents or other adults. However, if there are several signs happening at the same time or if they occur suddenly or are extreme, it is suggestive of dangerous substance abuse and should be addressed to protect the youth from serious harm. Signs include:

- Apparent slurring of speech, incoherent ramblings, lack of self-control, memory lapses
- Pilfering money or stealing things to purchase alcohol or drugs
- Finding substances in youth’s room or personal belongings
- New problems in school (poor attendance, lower grades, disciplinary action)
- Changing friends and a reluctance to have family meet new friends
- Making threats to harm self or others, quit school, run away from home

Responsive Actions – Substance Abuse

- If you – a child or adolescent – are using alcohol or abusing drugs:
  - Talk with your parents, an older sibling or adult relative. Ask for help to stop the substance abuse. Ask them to discuss with you the applicable material in this document – to help you understand and receive the assistance necessary to correct the problem.
  - Talk with a school counselor or coach, your family physician, or
  - Call the Georgia Crisis Hotline at (800) 715-4225 or TEXT “CTL” TO 741741 for a confidential conversation.
• If you suspect a child or adolescent is experiencing substance abuse, be proactive:
  o If a child or adolescent is in your home, secure alcohol and prescription drugs from unauthorized access and use. Learn all you can about the effects and dangers of substance abuse among children and teens. Talk to your child or adolescent.
  o If you believe the abuse is occurring on school property or at a school event, talk with the school counselor, coach or principal.
  o If you recognize and witness adults giving or selling alcohol or drugs to underage youth, call 9-1-1 to report the illegal activity.
  o If you believe your child is a victim of substance abuse, seek help from your family physician or professional counselor.
  o If you are a Navy or Marine Corps family, you can also contact the Fleet and Family Services Center at (912) 573-4512 or (912) 573-4222 for counseling and/or referral.

Notes:

1) Additional Services: * Gateway Behavioral Services of Camden County, (912) 576-4357; * Family Matters Of Coastal Georgia, Inc.; (912) 510-3770; * Safe Harbor – (912) 729-7620; * CAMDEN COUNTY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) – (912) 882-3119; * Lighthorse Healthcare, Inc. – (912) 207-4695; *Coastal Counseling Center, St. Marys, (912) 729-1120; USA National Child Abuse Hotline, (800) 422-4453 (24/7); and Other local services.

2) Additional Information: Social Pressures - EVERY SMOKE COUNTS; * SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES; * Drug Abuse Pictures Slideshow: Commonly Abused Prescription and OTC Drugs; * Alcohol Abuse Pictures Slideshow: 12 Health Risks of Chronic Heavy Drinking; *

3) Additional Videos and Podcasts: Texting – Crisis Text Line – Who We Are; * Drug-Free World; * Drug Abuse Education - It's a Fact!; *

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Appendix

Training and Seminars

1. CAMDEN COUNTY COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) 2014 In-Service Training Schedule [http://www.camdencountycasa.org/index.html](http://www.camdencountycasa.org/index.html). In-Service Training Sessions are held each month at the CASA office, 5:30pm

2. Camden Community Alliance & Resources, Inc. is Camden County’s official planning agency for improving the lives of families and children. Scheduled training includes:
   
a. In October 2014: Aggression Replacement Training for local and regional mental health counseling teams.
b. Annually: Prevention Credentialing core training.
c. For a calendar of events, go to [http://www.camdenfamilies.org/what_you_can_do/event_calendar.html](http://www.camdenfamilies.org/what_you_can_do/event_calendar.html)
d. For additional information, contact Camden Community Alliance & Resources, Inc. at Phone (912) 882-7295; Fax (912) 510-5030; E-mail [office@camdenfamilies.org](mailto:office@camdenfamilies.org); 1000 Pro Three Pkwy, PO Box 5087, St. Marys, GA 31558

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## Medical, Intervention, and Counseling Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical, Intervention, and Counseling Resources * Doing Business As - DBA</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Services Provided</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boys Town</strong></td>
<td>800-448-3000 <a href="http://www.boystown.org/">http://www.boystown.org/</a></td>
<td>Suicide Hotline: National nonprofit, staffed 24/7 by trained counselors. Accredited by American Association of Suicidology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Camden Community Crisis Center, Inc.</strong> (DBA: Camden House)</td>
<td><a href="http://camdenhousega.org/">http://camdenhousega.org/</a> Crisis Line: (912) 882-7858</td>
<td>Temporary refuge or shelter, counseling, and referral services as appropriate to assist victims of family violence and their children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Camden County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program</strong></td>
<td>912-882-3119 <a href="http://www.camdencountycasa.org/index.html">http://www.camdencountycasa.org/index.html</a> 700 Charles Gilman Jr. Avenue Kingsland, GA 31548</td>
<td>Nonprofit (501C3) agency with trained volunteers appointed by judicial system to speak on behalf of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court proceedings. Classes and seminars for professionals and volunteers in child abuse, parenting and related issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Camden County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)</strong></td>
<td>912-262-3260 (Camden) 855-422-4453 (Georgia) <a href="https://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/child-abuse-neglect">https://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/child-abuse-neglect</a> 700 Charles Gilman Jr. Avenue Kingsland, GA 31548</td>
<td>State agency providing services for children including reporting and investigating child abuse, foster care and adoption services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Camden County Health Department Clinics</strong></td>
<td>St. Marys Clinic 912-882-8515 <a href="http://gachd.org/">http://gachd.org/</a> 909 Dilworth Street, St. Marys 31558 Open 8-5 M-F Woodbine Clinic 912-575-3040 fax 912-729-3111 1501 Georgia Avenue, Woodbine Open 8-5 M-F</td>
<td>Government agency providing health services including STD testing, pregnancy testing, women’s health services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coastal Counseling Center</strong></td>
<td>(912) 729-1120 <a href="http://www.coastalcounselingcenter.org/">http://www.coastalcounselingcenter.org/</a></td>
<td>Nonprofit agency providing substance abuse counseling for adolescents on sliding fee scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CareNet Pregnancy Center of Coastal Georgia</strong></td>
<td>Crisis 24 hour line (877) 791-5475; (912) 729-8842 <a href="http://coastalcarenet.org/">http://coastalcarenet.org/</a></td>
<td>Nonprofit agency provides pregnancy testing, STD testing, pregnancy counseling; no abortion services. M-Th.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Medical, Intervention, and Counseling Resources

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<td><strong>Family Matters Of Coastal Georgia, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>Crisis Line (912) 409-8565; Office (912) 882-6448 <a href="http://www.familymattersofcoastalga.org/home">http://www.familymattersofcoastalga.org/home</a> 605 Osborne St. St Marys, GA 31558</td>
<td>For profit medical management company with professional counselors in psychotherapy, depth psychology, psychological testing and medication management. Insurance accepted; sliding fee scale available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gateway Behavioral Services of Camden County</strong></td>
<td>(912) 576-4357 <a href="http://www.gatewaybhs.org/CountyCamden.htm">http://www.gatewaybhs.org/CountyCamden.htm</a> 701A Charles Gilman Jr. Avenue, Kingsland, GA 31548</td>
<td>Public nonprofit organization providing child and adolescent mental health and addiction counseling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GLBT National Youth Talk</strong></td>
<td>(800) 246-7743 <a href="http://www.glnh.org/talkline/">http://www.glnh.org/talkline/</a></td>
<td>National nonprofit hotline with peer level counseling for youth 14-25, M-F 4 p.m. to midnight; Sat noon to 5 p.m. EST.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</strong></td>
<td>(800) 273-8255</td>
<td>National 24/7 hotline that provides professional intervention and assessment</td>
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## Medical, Intervention, and Counseling Resources * Doing Business As - DBA

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<td><strong>National Teen Domestic Violence Hotline</strong></td>
<td>(800) 799-7233 <a href="http://www.thehotline.org/">http://www.thehotline.org/</a></td>
<td>Nonprofit offering online chat 24/7 for those experiencing dating abuse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Safe Harbor Children’s Advocacy Center</strong></td>
<td>Crisis Line (912) 222-5507 Office: (912) 729-7630 <a href="http://www.safeharborcenterinc.org/services/">http://www.safeharborcenterinc.org/services/</a> 104 Lakeshore Drive Suite E St. Marys, GA 31558</td>
<td>Nonprofit organization focused on child abuse providing interview evaluations for law enforcement, counseling, advocacy and parenting classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>School Safety Hotline (Ga. DOE)</strong></td>
<td>877-SAY-STOP (877-729-7867) <a href="http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/AskDOE/Pages/School-Safety-Hotline.aspx">http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/AskDOE/Pages/School-Safety-Hotline.aspx</a></td>
<td>For students to anonymously report an unsafe situation in school. (Weapons, drugs, alcohol, bullying, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Crisis Text Line</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.crisistextline.org/">http://www.crisistextline.org/</a></td>
<td>Crisis Text Line serves young people in any type of crisis, providing them access to free, 24/7, emotional support and information they need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>USA National Child Abuse Hotline</strong></td>
<td>(800) 422-4453 <a href="http://www.childhelp.org/pages/hotline-home">http://www.childhelp.org/pages/hotline-home</a></td>
<td>National nonprofit 24/7 confidential, anonymous hotline to report child abuse. Services in 170 languages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Residential Treatment Facilities for Special Populations of Children/Youth

Kidspeace

- **Sexual Issues Residential Treatment Program – Georgia**
  - *Male ages 11–17*
  - Highly structured, self-contained, staff-secure, 24-hour supervision and services for youth stepping down from a higher level of hospitalization but requiring more intensive services than available in the community and exhibit emotional, sexual and/or behavior management problems and have experienced unsuccessful prior placements. Clients receive individual and family centered, strength based positive reinforcement and appropriate intervention to promote their ability to function in less restrictive settings. The program is recognized as a Core Provider in the State of Georgia.
  - Georgia Campus, Bowdon, GA – Fact Sheet 022-0056

- **Sexual Disorders Issues Unit – Georgia**
  - As part of the KidsPeace Georgias continuum of care, the Sexual Issues Unit provides Room,Board and Watchful Oversight (RBWO) to males ages 12 through 17 years who are ready to step down from a higher level of hospitalization, who need more intensive services than the community can provide, who possess emotional, sexual and/or behavioral management problems and/or those who have histories of unsuccessful or repeated placements and/or hospitalizations. It features a separate self-contained facility that is staff-secure and provides 24-hour care for clients requiring around-the-clock structure and supervision.
  - Georgia Campus, Bowdon, GA – Fact Sheet 022-0089

Laurel Heights

934 Briarcliff Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306
Main Line: 404.888.7860
Admissions Line: 404.888.5475

**Intensive Residential Treatment Program:** Offering a Child Program, serving children ages 7–12, and an Adolescent Program, serving teens, ages 13–17 (ages 18 – 21 considered on a case-by-case basis)

- Self-injurious, disruptive and aggressive behaviors
- **Sexually reactive behaviors**
- Trauma symptoms
Coastal Harbor Treatment Center

1150 Cornell Avenue
Savannah, GA 31406
912-354-3911 (Main number)
912-692-4285 (Intake and admissions)
Fax: 912-355-1336
www.coastalharbor.com

- Coastal Harbor Treatment Center has had success working with children who have failed in other residential settings. The center’s onsite certified education program uses a multidisciplinary treatment team approach, including specialized therapists in areas such as art, recreation, and sex offender treatment. Coastal Harbor Treatment Center provides 24-hour nursing in a locked and secure facility.
  - Capacity: 132 beds
    Ages Served: 4-17 (Acute and residential); 4-17 (Partial hospitalization)
  - Specialty Populations Served:
    - Developmentally delayed
    - Sexually aggressive youth
    - Intensive treatment for behavioral, emotional and psychiatric disturbances
    - Residential mental health facility for children and adolescents
    - Psychiatric hospital for children and adolescents
  - Services:
    - Inpatient acute care for children and adolescents
    - Intensive and highly structured residential treatment for children and adolescents with psychiatric and behavioral disorders
    - Specialized residential treatment for children and adolescents with developmental delays and sexually aggressive behaviors, as well as those with chronic behavior, family, academic and legal difficulties
    - Partial hospitalization program for adolescents with psychiatric and educational/behavioral disorders
    - Intensive family intervention and treatment for children and adolescents through wraparound services
    - Specialized foster care
Twin Cedars Youth & Family Services, Inc.
Admissions Coordinator at (706) 298-2066

Twin Cedars Youth & Family Services, Inc. is a private non profit organization offering an array of services. Twin Cedars specializes in residential services for adolescent boys and girls with a focus on serving teen mothers and their babies, sexually traumatized youth, sexually aggressive youth, and severely emotionally disturbed youth.

Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home (females)
751 Double Churches Road
Columbus, GA 31904
Telephone: 706-322-8984
The Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home provides residential care for severely emotionally, behaviorally disturbed females, ages 7-18. Residents live in a safe staff-secured environment. Licensed by the Office of Regulatory Services and accredited by COA, the home has the capacity to accommodate up to 46 residents.

Bradfield Center (males)
1022 E. Depot Street
LaGrange, GA 30241
Telephone: 706-884-1717
The Bradfield Center is located in LaGrange, Georgia, approximately one hour southwest of Atlanta. The Center affords residential services for up to 45 severely emotionally and behaviorally disturbed males, ages 9 to 17, who have documented histories of sexual aggression. Residents live in a safe, staff-secured setting and attend school on campus. Outpatient services include individual, group, and family therapy.

Methodist Home for Children and Youth
PO Box 2525
Macon, GA 31203
Website: www.themethodisthome.org
Phone: 478-751-2800
E-mail: information@themethodisthome.org

STARS: Special Treatment for Abused Reactive Syndrome; provides intermediate residential treatment for young males between the ages of 6 and 12 who are exhibiting sexual behavior problems resulting from abuse and victimization.
Youth Villages Inner Harbour Campus  
4685 Dorsett Shoals Road  
Douglasville, GA 30135  
phone: 770-852-6300  
toll-free: 800-255-8657  
fax: 770-852-6301

The campus provides general psychiatric treatment for males and females ages 5-21. We specialize in treating children and adolescents with significant psychiatric illness and impairment in behavioral, cognitive, emotional, familial, and/or social functioning. A high staff-to-child ratio allows for counselors to pay one-on-one attention to each child and provide individual therapy. The goal of treatment is to have children learn new, more positive behavior patterns that will allow them to do well in the community. The ultimate goal is to allow children to return to their families as quickly as possible, whenever possible. The goal of DBT at Inner Harbour is to teach our youth more effective ways to regulate their emotions, deal with distressing situations in their lives, and to improve relationships with the people around them.

Specific treatment programs:
- Children’s Program (up to age 12)
- General Psychiatric Program (ages 13-21)
- Brain Based Services
- Neurofeedback Therapy
- Excel Continuum (DJJ-committed youth)

Special programs are offered for boys and girls who have:
- Low IQ (50 and above)
- Problem sexual behaviors (males ages 12-17)
- Co-occurring medical conditions
- Suicidal and self-harming behaviors
- Aggressive behaviors that are the result of severe emotional problems
- Chronic runaway behaviors with high risk of harm to self or others
- Psychotic symptoms and behaviors
- Significant developmental challenges
- Neurodevelopmental disorders including autism, pervasive developmental disorder NOS, Asperger’s, learning disabilities and organic brain syndrome

Admissions approval requires both clinical and financial clearance. Inner Harbour accepts Private Pay and Insurance. Clinical approval requires one or more of the following conditions:
- Evidence of a DSM-IV-R diagnosable mental disorder.
- Child or adolescent exhibits behaviors that is dangerous to self or others.
- There is a history of failed or insufficient inpatient or outpatient treatment efforts or inaccessibility of outpatient treatment.
- There has been unmanageable behavior in the home environment.
• There is evidence of severe dysfunction within the community or school system.
• There is a history of drug abuse or alcohol abuse.
• There is an absence or collapse of support systems to a degree that requires hospitalization.

Devereux
1291 Stanley Road
Kennesaw, GA 30152 - Telephone: (800) 342-3357; (770) 427-0147

Admissions Office for more information: (1) Cliff Taylor ctaylor@devereux.org or 678-303-5233; (2) Brenda Thurmond bthurmon@devereux.org or 678-303-5234

Devereux Georgia is licensed to serve 100 children up to the age of 21, who are experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges brought on by abuse, neglect, mental illness, sexual exploitation, or intellectual/developmental disabilities. They struggle with mental health and/or emotional challenges including major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. Symptoms of their illness often manifest in expulsion from school, additional disrupted foster care placements, and even placement in the juvenile or criminal justice system.

• Psychiatric residential treatment facility for children 10-21
• Continuum of care with individualized treatment plans
• Team of specialists including psychiatrists, therapists, clinical staff and others
• Specialty Foster Care program geared toward permanency
• Transitional Living Group Home for males 17-21 (Project P.L.U.S.)
• Therapeutic Group Home in cottages on campus for adolescent males and females (MAAC PLUS)
• Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accredited school
• Network of specialists in Devereux centers throughout the country

There are four residential treatment programs on the Devereux Georgia campus designed to support the needs of youth with emotional and behavioral challenges. Youth are assessed and assigned to one of the campus programs based on age, gender, presenting problems, and developmental level.

1. The Discovery Program serves male and female pre-adolescent youth ages 10-12.
2. The Journey Program serves male youth ages 13-21 with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (IQ range 55-70).
3. The Butterfly Program serves female youth ages 13-21 with the programming being divided into the younger adolescent group (ages 13-15) and the older adolescent group (ages 16-21).
4. The Phoenix Program serves male youth ages 13-21 with the living spaces being divided into the younger adolescent group (ages 13-15) and the older adolescent group (ages 16-21).
Ga Baptist Children's Home-(respite weekend DD chn)
Central Office
P.O. Box 329
Palmetto, Georgia 30268
(770) 463-3800

Special Services Locations
Camp Hawkins
(Camp for Children with Developmental Disabilities)
800 Rudeseal Rd.
Mt. Airy, GA
(706)894-1678

Camp Hawkins: This summer camping program is designed to meet the needs of children with developmental disabilities. This ministry has expanded to include a weekend respite care program called "Matthew's Time" for children with more severe disabilities.

Contact Information: Holly Odom, Social Worker; hodom@gbchfm.org; 770.567.8987

Morningstar
P.O. Box 370,
Brunswick, GA 31521
1 Youth Estate Drive
Brunswick, GA 31525
Ph: 912-267-7583
Fax: 912-267-9568
info@morningstarcfs.org
www.morningstarcfs.org
www.morningstartreatmentservices.com

- IQ between 40-70
- Males and Females ages 7-17
- Emotionally Disturbed children and youth that have MR diagnosis
Other Information

- **Prescription Drug Disposal**
  1. How to Dispose of Unused Medicines
     a. In Camden County, Georgia, the Sheriff’s Office provides a Prescription Drug Disposal Drop Box at **209 East 4th Street; Woodbine, GA 31569**; Monday – Friday 8:00AM to 5:00PM
     b. Other locations in Georgia and other States are listed at: http://www.stoprxabuseinga.org/prescription-drug-disposal.html

  2. 5 Step American Medicine Chest Challenge

  3. If you have additional questions about disposing of your medicine, contact your Pharmacist, Doctor, or call the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) at (888) INFO-FDA ((888) 463-6332).

- **The Parent and Guardian – Taking Care of Yourself**
  1. Checklist
  2. Be Smart – Be Well

- **LGBTQ Information Resources**
  1. The Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network (JASMYN) is a non-profit youth services organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth ages 13-23, in Jacksonville, Florida.
  2. The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13-24.
     a. Need help? We are here for you 24/7: 1-866-488-7386
     b. I need a safe, non-judgmental place to talk.
        i. TrevorText - Available on Fridays (4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET / 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. PT). Text the word “Trevor” to 1-202-304-1200. Standard text messaging rates apply.
        ii. TrevorChat - Available 7 days a week (3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. ET / 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. PT).
  3. A Practitioner’s resource Guide: Helping Families to support their LGBT children

- **Where Else to Get Help**
  1. Time To Get Help Call: 855-DRUGFREE (855-378-4373) English and Spanish
2. Neil Kaltenecker, Executive Director, Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, neil@gasubstanceabuse.org, 404-223-3440 (web site: www.gasubstanceabuse.org)

- E-Links for Learning More


3. www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/files/508/UnderstandingSAGuideDW.htm: A comprehensive report prepared by the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. Includes a chart that describes the alcohol use to abuse to addiction continuum as well as specific indicators that we should be able to spot when doing a thorough assessment. Also, check out CAGE and UNCOPE assessment questions.

4. http://www.cadca.org/files/resources/Beyond_the-Basics-Environmental_Strategies-11-2010.pdf: This publication provides an overview of the environmental strategies approach to community problem solving. It includes real examples of efforts where environmental strategies aimed at preventing and reducing community problems related to alcohol and other drugs were implemented.

5. http://www.camy.org/ Mission: The Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health monitors the marketing practices of the alcohol industry to focus attention and action on industry practices that jeopardize the health and safety of America's youth. Reducing high rates of underage alcohol consumption and the suffering caused by alcohol-related injuries and deaths among young people requires using the public health strategies of limiting the access to and the appeal of alcohol to underage persons.

Distribution

- Distribution: T1 – Camden County Georgia Child and Adolescent Assistance, Counseling, Intervention and Emergency Service Contacts and Organizations;
- Distribution: T2 – Camden County Georgia Government, Civic, and Spiritual Leaders;
- Distribution: T3 – Selected information-distribution hubs and selected referenced organizations;
- Distribution: T4 – Individual distribution and sharing.

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