

# ERIN'S LAW



## WHAT IS ERINS LAW

- Resulted from a State task force
- Passed in January of 2013 for implementation beginning with the 2013-2014 school year
- Part of HB 6193, Section 3 –Comprehensive Health Education Program
- “...age appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades pre-kindergarten through 12...”

# WHY WAS THIS LAW PASSED

## BECAUSE:

- 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 6 boys will experience sexual abuse before they are 18.
- Only 1 in 10 sexually abused children will tell someone.
- A mere third of the teens who were involved in an abusive relationship confided in someone about the violence.
- Roughly 1.5 million high school boys and girls in the U.S. admit to being intentionally hit or physically harmed in the last year by someone they are romantically involved with.

# WHY WAS THIS LAW PASSED

- The number of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect increased 24 percent in Peoria County in 2014
- The average rate of reported crimes against children in Peoria County was 483 per 100,000 children, more than twice the statewide rate of 221.2 from 2009 to 2011
- 33 percent of adolescents in America are victim to sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional dating abuse
- Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident.

# WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE COMES TO YOU

## General Do's:

- Take all reports serious
  - Ask what they may need
  - Actively listen to what they are telling you
  - Validate what they are feeling
  - Be present with the person
  - Be mindful of your presentation
  - Tell a school employee/parent/guardian
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# WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE COMES TO YOU

## General Don'ts:

- Do not tell them they are lying or making up stories
  - Do not dig for more information -let them share what is comfortable for them
  - Do not make promises you can't keep
  - Do not react in shock or disgust
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# WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE COMES TO YOU

## Helpful Phrases:

- This is not your fault
  - I believe you
  - I'm here for you
  - You are not to blame
  - You didn't do anything wrong
  - You did what you had to do
  - I'm sorry this happened
  - Thank you for telling me about this
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## **Child Advocacy Center**

- Hotline: (309 669-2900
- Website: <http://www.peoriacounty.org/statesattorney/child-advocacy-center/>

## **Illinois CASA**

- Phone: 309-673-8788

## **DCFS Hotline**

- **1-800-25-ABUSE**
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