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
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
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
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