

## *Key Concepts*



### *The Five Steps for Protecting God's Children*

**Step 1—Know the warning signs**

**Step 2—Control access**

**Step 3—Monitor all programs**

**Step 4—Be aware**

**Step 5—Communicate your concerns**

### *Warning signs—*

- Gives gifts without permission and often tells the children not to tell
- Takes photographs of other people's children without permission or creates photo albums or journals of interactions with other people's children
- Always wants to be alone with children, and discourages others from participating. Meets with children in secluded areas where they can't be monitored
- They think the rules don't apply to them
- Goes overboard touching children who are not their own
- Lets children get away with things that their parents would not allow
- Tells sexually explicit jokes, uses sexual language, and shows pornography to children

### *Action Items—*

- Regularly check the Sex Offender Registry in your area
- Have a healthy suspicion of all the adults who regularly interact with your children
- Take action to make a difference in your parish, school, or organizational environment
- If an adult has a reasonable suspicion that a child has been, or is being abused, the adult should (and in some states is required) to report the abuse as soon as possible to the local or state child protection services.
- In emergency situations, call 911.