

Institutional Abuse Prevention *makes kids safer.* Everywhere they are.



Why address abuse within organizations?

Professionals and adults in youth serving organizations (YSOs) like schools, healthcare facilities, and recreational spaces are the most common reporters of abuse and neglect. They have a legal and ethical obligation, a duty of care, to keep children safe whether harm is occurring in the home, within the program, or anywhere else.

Professionals understand and use trauma-informed approaches. Caregivers and children learn social-emotional skills and strategies. Boundaries are set by adults children trust. Because professionals who retraumatize or violate safe boundaries make children more susceptible to abuse.

We address abuse within organizations because this is where prevention happens. We know that institutional leadership styles and structures determine:

Likelihood
abuse will occur

Speed abuse
is detected

How effectively
detected abuse
is addressed

What is institutional abuse prevention?

Institutional abuse prevention is about **prioritizing our duty of care** so professionals are competent, askable adults; spaces children occupy are safer; and those we trust with children's safety are worthy of that responsibility.

It reduces risk, builds resilience, and responds to abuse more effectively wherever it occurs. It makes children's safety the first job. For every employee.

SCAN
of Northern Virginia
**Stronger Families
Safer Children**

What do organizational child protection programs include?

SCAN provides a phased approach for organizations to implement eight overarching goals for rights-based child protection. Designed by Johns Hopkins University, Moore Center, these goals inform policies and procedures and help leaders identify risks to children before harm occurs.

Desk Guide for Leaders 8 Overarching Goals



Preventing and Addressing Child Sexual Abuse in Youth Serving Organizations: A Desk Guide for Organizational Leaders, December 2020.

How does SCAN support safer youth-serving organizations?

SCAN works with organizational leaders and youth-serving professionals through the Allies in Prevention Coalition, Trauma-informed Community Networks (TICNs), and a grant-supported consultancy program to facilitate implementation of comprehensive child protection programs.

We provide child protection training, audits, and technical assistance tailored to your sector and practitioner needs. Leadership prepared to mitigate risks can empower staff, shift social norms through community awareness, and make institutions inhospitable to abuse.

- #1** *Understand the impact of trauma on children.*
- #2** *Develop institutional abuse prevention and response programs.*
- #3** *Ensure your programs are trauma-informed.*
- #4** *Exhibit your commitment to safer programs for children and adults.*

How can your youth-serving organization get started today?

Reach out to SCAN to learn more. Take a training, attend an event, join a trauma informed community network (TICN), or become an Ally in Prevention at [SCANVA.org](https://www.scanva.org).