

BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF MEN OR WOMEN WHO HAVE MOLESTED CHILDREN

CAUTION: Some people who have molested or plan to molest a child exhibit no observable behavior pattern that would be a clue to their future actions.

PERSONS WHO MOLEST CHILDREN OFTEN:

1. Are aware, in many cases, of their preference for children before they reach age 18. Most offenders are adult males, but some women also molest children
2. Are usually married. A small number never marry and maintain a lifelong sexual and emotional interest in children
3. Relate better to children than adults and may feel more comfortable with children and their interests
4. Have few close adult friends
5. Prefer children in a specific age group
6. Prefer one gender to the other, however, some are bisexual in their preference
7. Seek employment or volunteer opportunities with programs involving children in the preferred victim age group for this type of offender
8. Pursue children for sexual purposes and may feel emotionally attached to the extent that emotional needs are met by engaging in relationships with children. Example: an adult male spends time with neighbor children or relatives and talks at length about his feelings for them or his own feelings of loneliness or loss, in order to get the child's sympathy
9. Photograph or collect photographs of their victims dressed, nude, or involved in sexual acts
10. Collect child erotica and child-adult pornography which may be used in the following ways:
 - a) To lower the inhibitions of victims
 - b) To fantasize when no potential victim is available
 - c) To relive past sexual activities
 - d) To justify their inappropriate sexual activities
 - e) To blackmail victims to keep them from telling
11. Possess alcohol or narcotics and furnish them to their victims to lower inhibitions or gain favor
12. Talk with children in ways that equalize their relationship
13. Talk about children in the same manner as one would talk about an adult love or partner

14. Seek out organizations (such as the North American Man-Boy Love Association/NAMBLA) and publications that support his sexual beliefs and practices
15. Offer to babysit or take children on trips in order to manipulate situations to sleep with or be near children or bathe or dress them
16. Are seen at parks, playgrounds or places frequented by children or teenagers.