

Possible Signs of Sexual Abuse*

In children

- Nightmares, sleeping problems
- Regressive behavior (acting much younger)
- Child does not want to be around a certain person
- Spacing out at odd times (disassociation)
- Withdrawing or becoming aggressive
- Psychosomatic complaints – body aches
- Injuries to private parts – making it difficult to sit or walk
- Frequent sore throats

In teens

- Self-harming behaviors (cutting, burning, etc.)
- Using drugs or alcohol to cope
- Eating disorders (extreme weight gain or loss)
- Depression/anxiety

* From the *SafeChurch: Protecting our Children and Youth* power point prepared by the Samaritan Counseling Center.