



# *Addressing the Subjects of Family Abuse and Parenting in Canada to Newcomers*

Segment # 5 (8:37)

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Responding to Disclosures of Abuse

(Do's and Don'ts)

and Community Supports

## Responding to Disclosures (Victims and Perpetrators)

### Do's

- Always interview in private
- Acknowledge how difficult it is to tell someone
- Believe the client
- Assess for safety
- Offer support – Explore opportunities to reduce isolation
- Ask permission to refer to another resource person
- If giving information discuss where to keep it
- Focus on behaviours, impact and no so much on labels
- Use gender neutral language

## Responding to Disclosures (Victims and Perpetrators)

### Don'ts

- Overwhelm with too much information
- Make promises you can't keep – I won't tell anyone
- Appear shocked
- Take notes?
- Confront the offender
- Ask why
- Ask leading questions

***Note – Do not cross the line between facilitator and family counsellor for anyone coming forward and disclosing their situation. Refer them to trained counsellors in your community.***

## **Supports in the Community**

- Crisis Services (Crisis lines, police, shelters)
- Family Counselling Services
- Support groups
- Health Care Services
- Legal and Financial Assistance
- Child Protection Services
- Some services are available in other languages in addition to English and French.

***Visit the website [www.familyabusedvd.ca](http://www.familyabusedvd.ca) and select “Links” for resources and services***