

A straw hat and a white protective garment, possibly a nightgown or a protective suit, are hanging on a wall made of vertical wooden planks. The hat is on the left, and the garment is on the right. The text is overlaid on the image.

PROTECT A CHILD

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

LEARN THE DIFFERENT STEPS USED WHEN YOU
REPORT ABUSE AND SUPPORT SURVIVORS

Visit www.themisfitamish.com for more
information about our Anti-Abuse campaign



HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

and what to know when you do.

1.

REACH OUT

Call 800.656.HOPE (4673) to be connected with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area. You can call your local police at 911, or find a safe person you feel comfortable to speak to.

You can also call, write, email, or text a victim advocate or contact an agency that supports victims of the crime committed against you.

2.

DO NOT

People who are not law enforcement or investigating officers of the law should not go to a suspected perpetrator of abuse and ask them about the abuse. This includes Bishops, Ministers, Deacons or spiritual counselors in your church.

In most states your Ministry are mandated reporters and are required to immediately notify police the first time they hear of your abuse. It is illegal for them to not do so.

3.

SEEK SUPPORT

Your abuse is not your fault, and there are many people who are safe and here to support you.

COMMON TERMS USED WHEN REPORTING

Victim advocate/victim witness advocate: a person who is assigned to help the victim through the court case (s), help them with appropriate resources and provide additional support. They work closely with the prosecuting attorney's office. (district attorney)

Sexual Assault Examination: The sexual assault medical forensic exam is an examination of a sexual assault victim by a healthcare provider, ideally one who has specialized education and clinical experience in the collection of forensic evidence and treatment of victims.

Child Forensic Interview: when a child is questioned by a qualified trained professional who asks questions to obtain detailed information per a set of strict guidelines.

HIPAA: The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 is a United States federal statute. HIPAA protects your private health information from being disclosed to another person/party/entity without your consent or knowledge. Unless a victim completes what is called a “consent form”, a medical provider is legally not able to release protected health information to **anyone** including your ministry and parents.

Guardian ad litem (GAL): someone who is assigned by the courts to investigate and find solutions in the best interest of the children.

Sentencing hearing: hearing where the judge determines the consequences of the crime. Usually when the victim is allowed to make a victim impact statement.

CPS/CYS/DHS: agencies who are involved when a child has been the victim of a crime. They may take custody of your children if you have abused them or fail to report the abuse of your child/children. You may also be required to take parenting classes through them as conditions of a court case.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH AN EXAMINATION

Sexual Assault Examination: The sexual assault medical forensic exam is an examination of a sexual assault patient by a healthcare provider, ideally one who has specialized education and clinical experience in the collection of forensic evidence and treatment of these patients.

The examination includes:

- Gathering information from the patient for the medical forensic history
- An examination
- Coordinating treatments of injuries, documentation of scientific and physical evidence, and collection of evidence from the victim
- Documentation of findings
- Information, treatment, and referrals for STI's, pregnancy, suicidal ideation, alcohol and substance abuse, and other non-acute medical concerns and follow up as needed to provide additional healing, treatment, or collection of evidence
- **PREPARING FOR EXAM** — it's natural to want to go through these motions after a traumatic experience, but when able, try to avoid these activities that could potentially damage evidence: showering, bathing, using the restroom, changing clothes, combing hair, cleaning up the area. (If you have done any of these activities, you can still have an exam performed).
- **In most cases, DNA evidence needs to be collected within 72 hours-but a sexual assault forensic exam can reveal other forms of evidence beyond this time frame that can be useful if you decide to report.**

In the state of Ohio (and some other states-check your state laws) any survivor of a Sex Crime can go to an Emergency Room to have a Sexual Assault evidence collection exam performed. These can be done without providing identity or reporting the crime if they so choose at the time.

The hospitals have trained "SANE" (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) who perform the procedure and are specially trained in handling these cases. Most often, a victim's advocate from local agency can be present to assist with the survivor and provide support. This is all done with the utmost confidentiality and discretion. If the victim decides to have this done anonymously, the collection kit is turned over to Law Enforcement to be secured in evidence. Ohio law (and some other states-check your state laws) requires Law Enforcement to hold secure the evidence of sex crimes indefinitely whether collected anonymously or in conjunction with a report and investigation.

This ensures that the evidence will always be present for prosecution if the victim decides to come forward later on and report. State laws can vary. Check with RAINN (1-800-656-4673 www.rainn.org) or your local rape crisis center for your own state laws.

THE 5 SENSES GOD GAVE YOU

God created 5 senses for us. We can use our 5 senses to help us spot abuse.

Sight: You may see that someone is hurting you or someone else. Or someone may show pictures or videos that are made to cause sexual feelings by showing people with little or no clothes on (porn). Your sight can help you know this is abuse.

Smell: A smell may bring memories or cause you to feel bad because of abuse. Maybe a friend reacts to a smell or tells you that the smell reminds them of abuse. Smells can help you know there is abuse.

Taste: Some people force others to taste or eat things that are unpleasant. Your taste can help you know this is abuse.

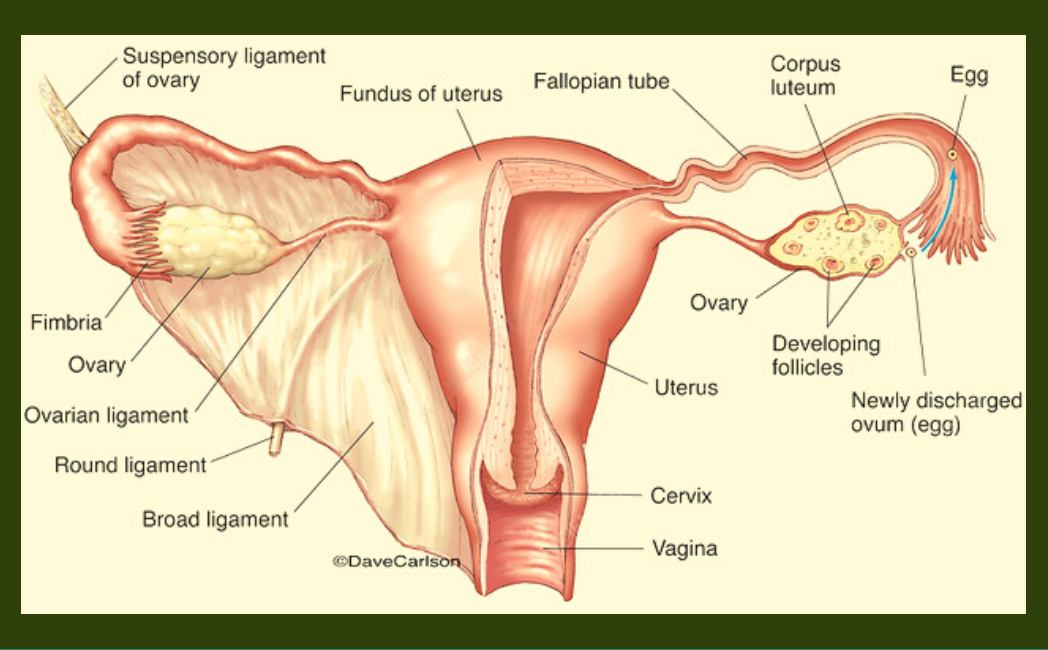
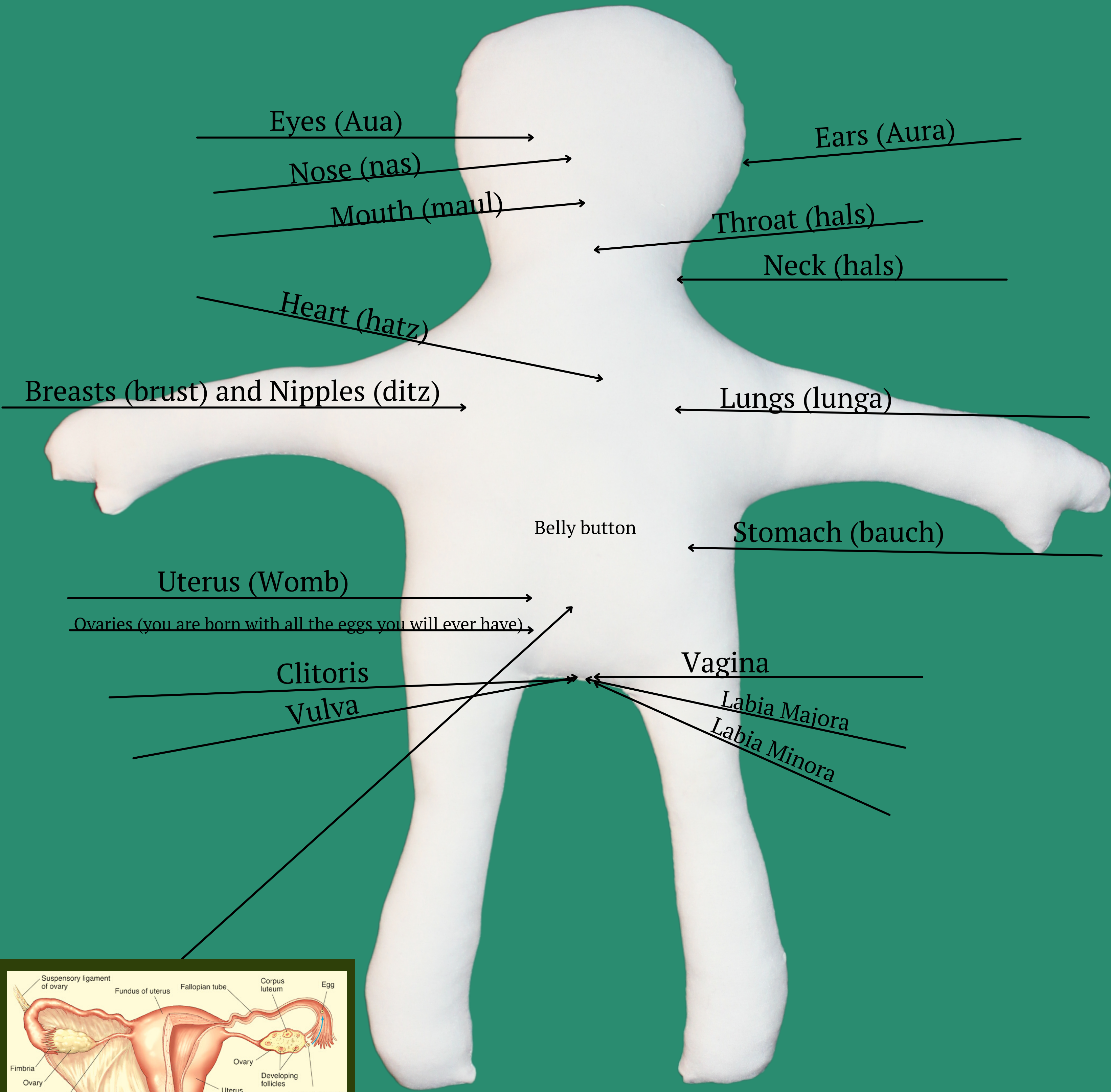
Hearing: You can hear abuse if people are yelling, screaming, or saying ugly things. You can also hear things like punches and hitting. Your hearing can help you know this is abuse.

Touch: Abuse can happen if someone uses force to hurt you. You may also have someone touch you without consent, or permission, which can be abuse. You may feel sick to your stomach when you are abused or see abuse. Your sense of touch can help you know this is abuse.

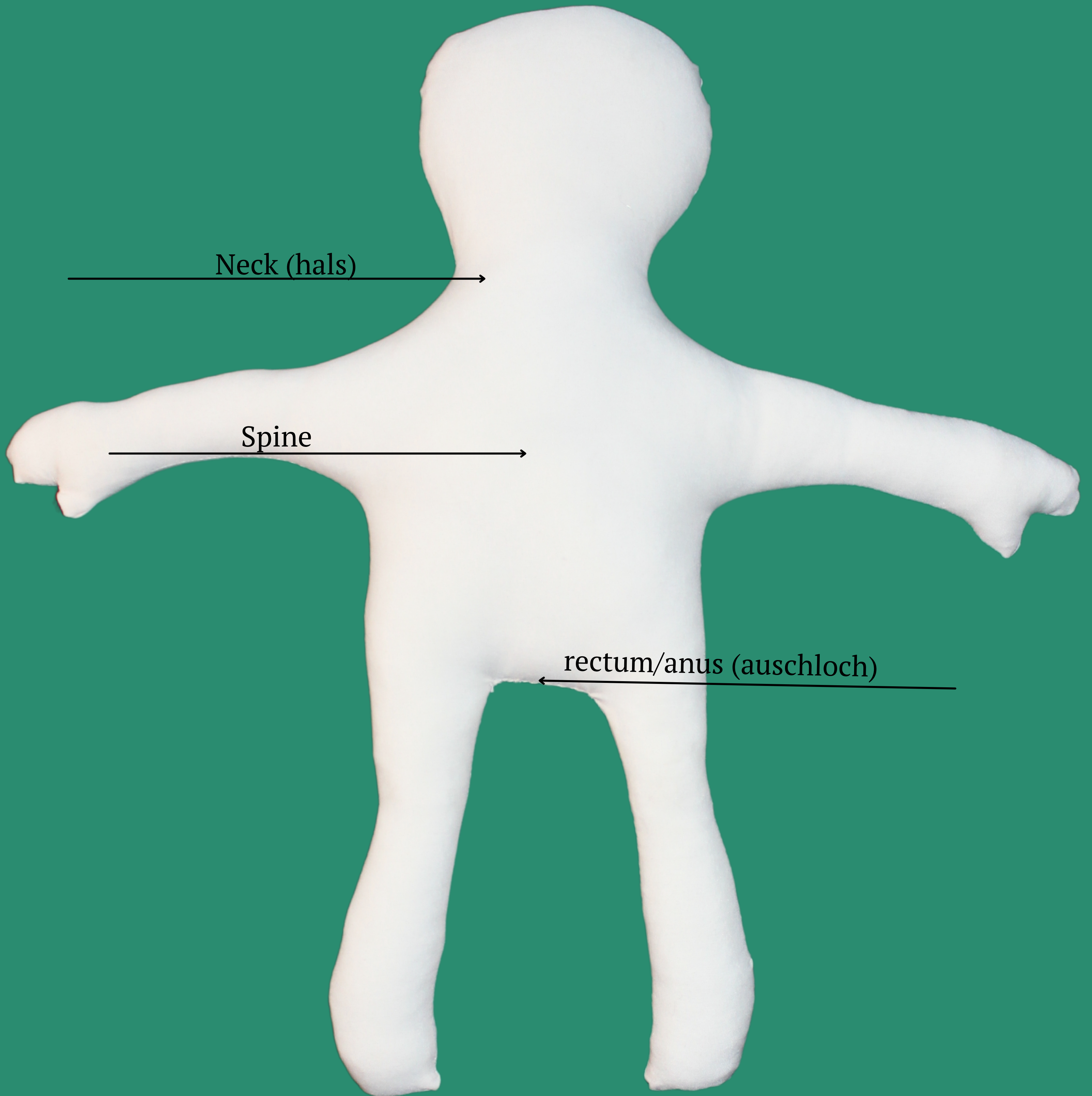
Parents should teach their children that there are private parts of the body. These are parts of the body that others should not look at or touch without a good reason, and permission. For example, when you need help from a doctor you may need an exam on the private parts of your body. Even then the doctor should tell you what they are doing and why and get your permission first.

It is important that we know the correct names for body parts. Parents should teach these to their children. Knowing correct names can help children tell a safe adult about abuse.

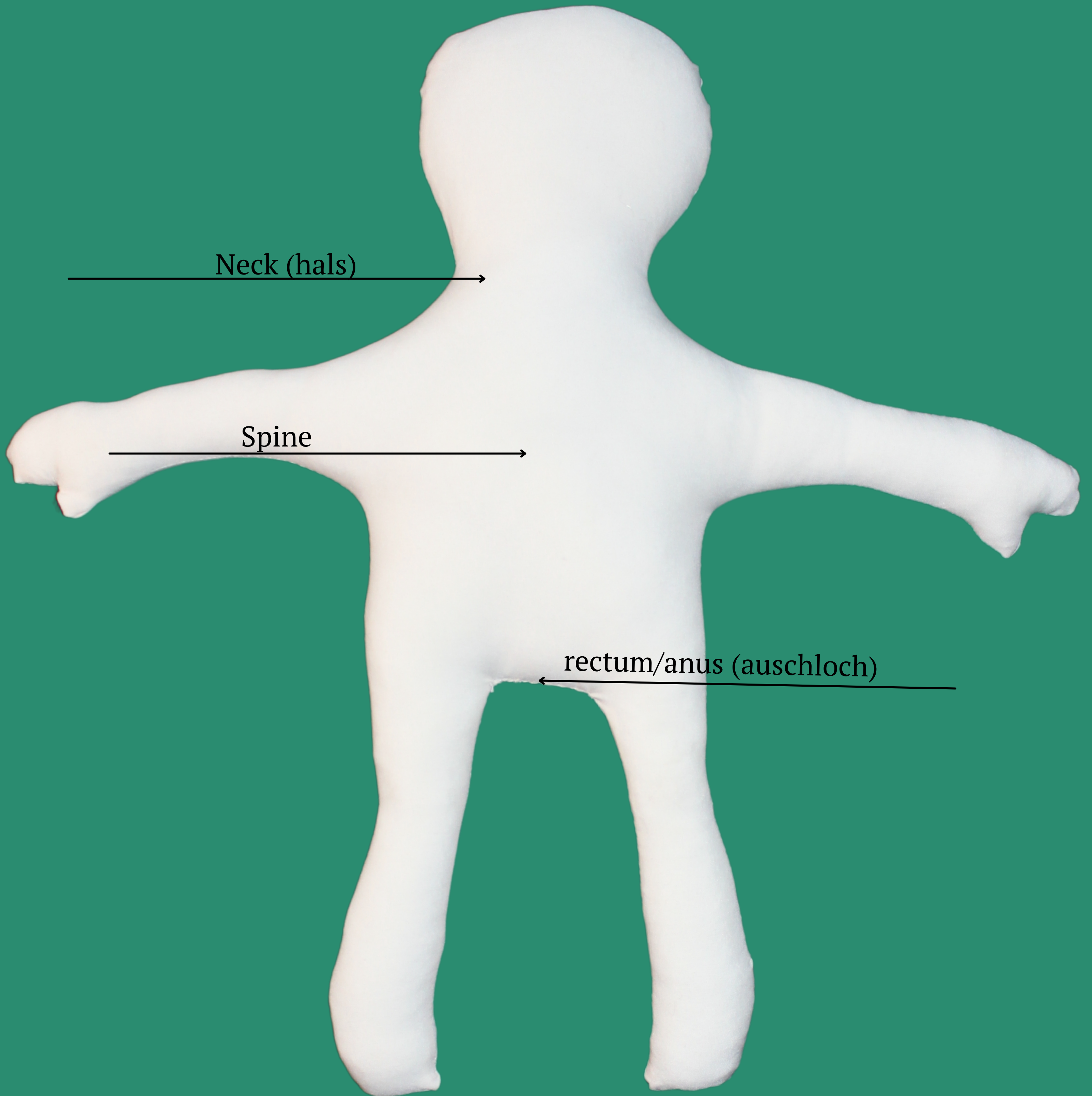
Female/Girl Front



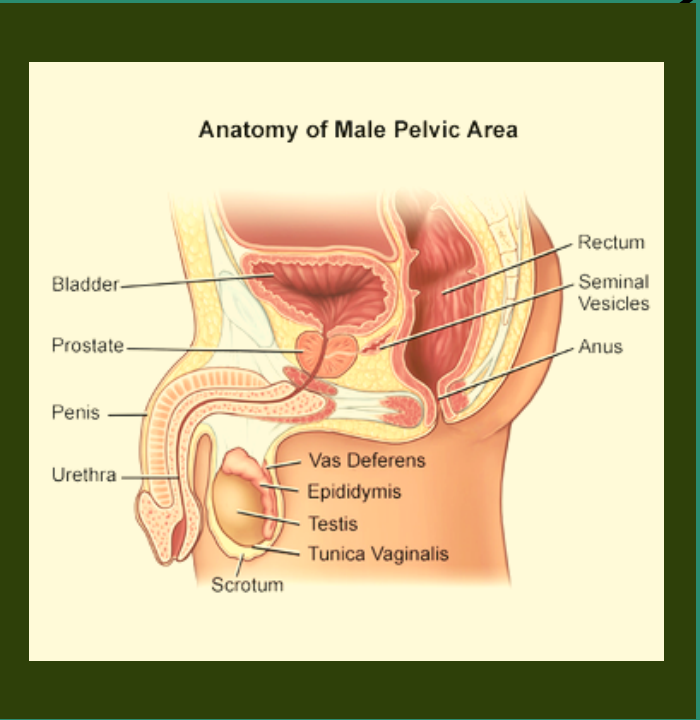
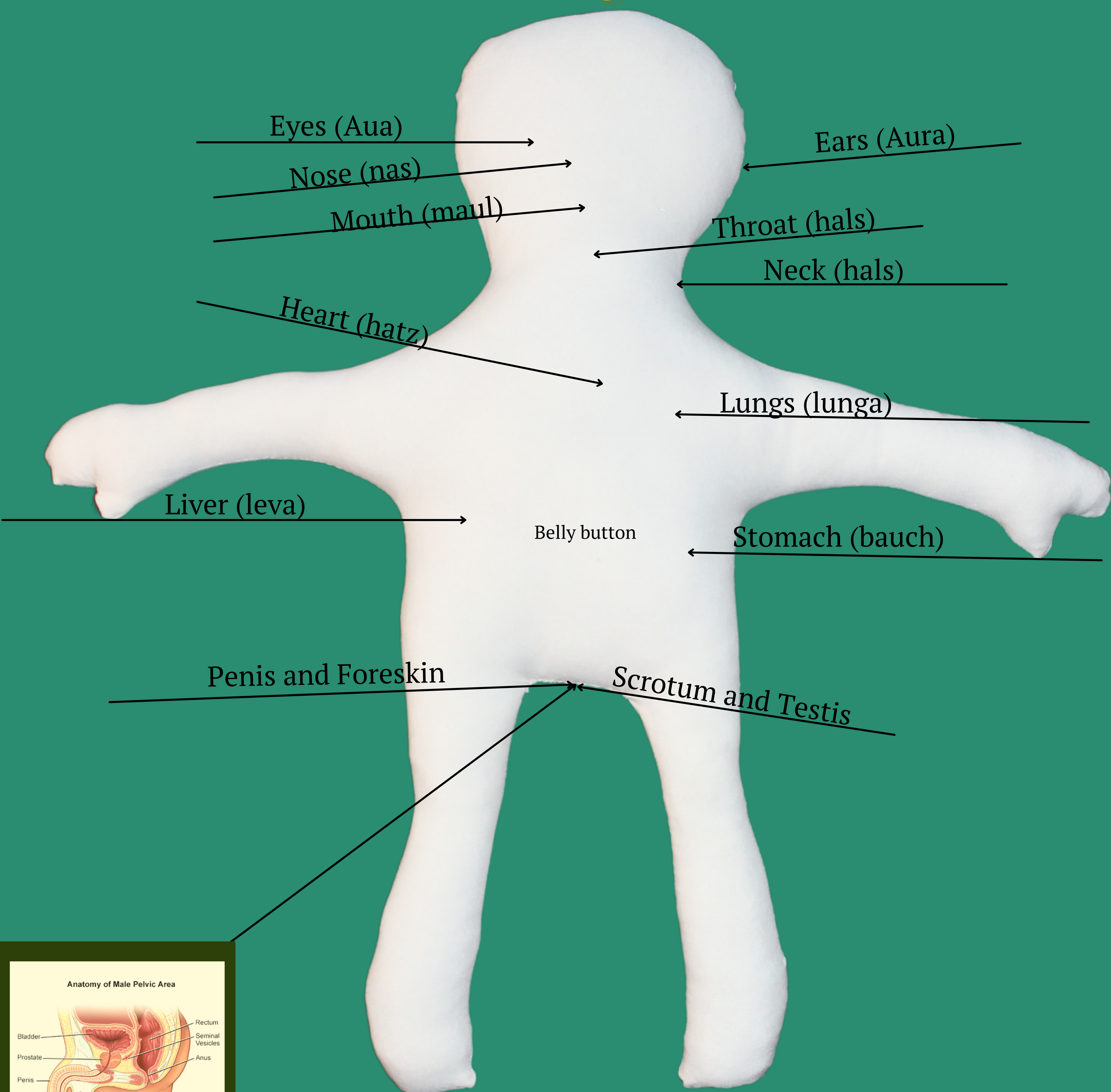
Female/Girl Back



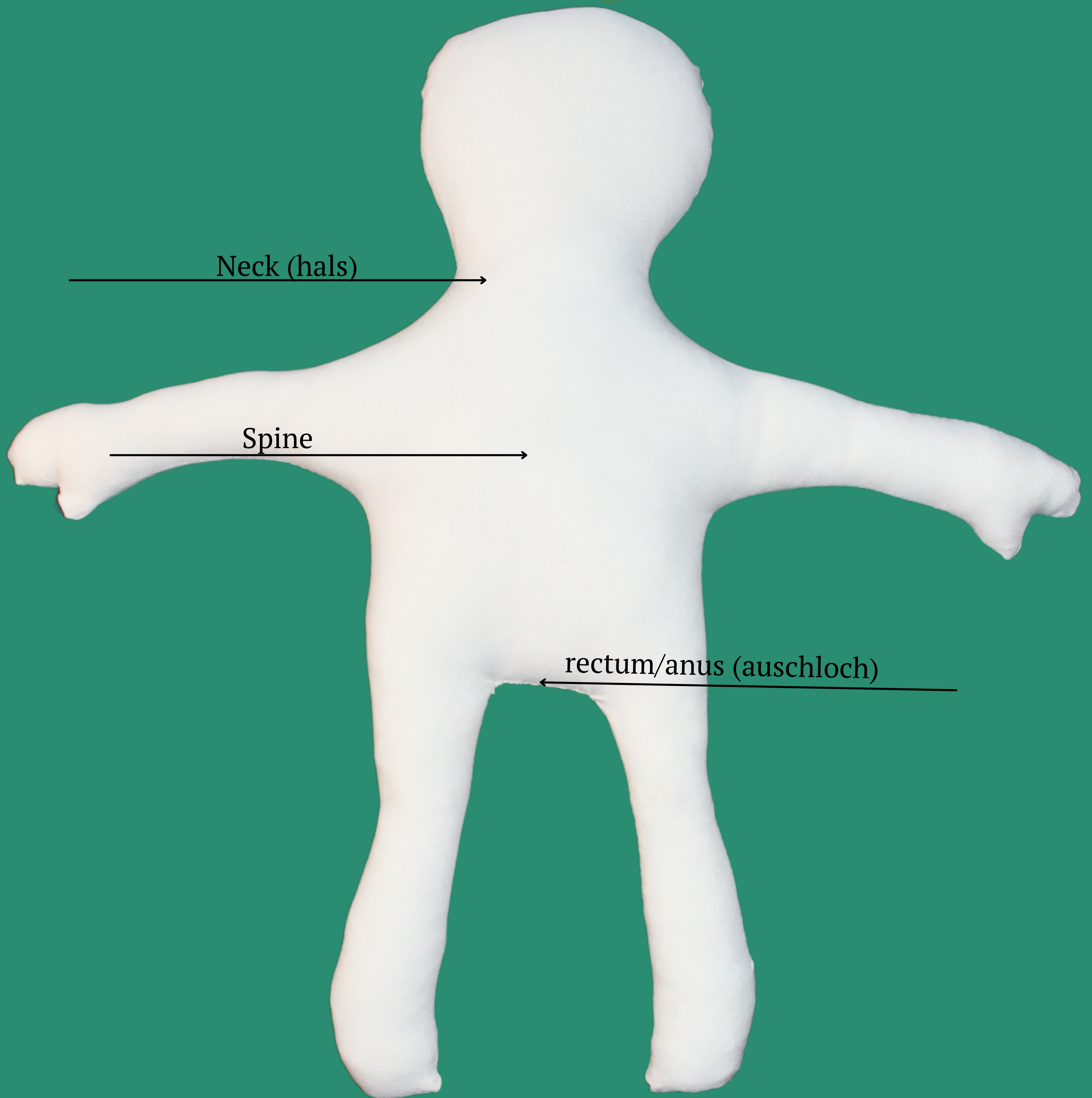
Female/Girl Back



Male/Boy Front



Male/Boy Back



TIPS TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

Listening without judgement is very important when supporting survivors. Something to always ask yourself before listening to a survivor is the question, "Am I listening to respond, or listening to understand?"

Even if you have experienced a similar story, it does not mean that you understand what they have gone through. They are the experts on their story. It also doesn't mean they should trust you, or that you're safe to them since what may feel safe for you doesn't mean it feels safe to them. Trust is cultivated through listening to a survivor without any judgement and allowing them to open up on their own time.

Below are some phrases and questions you can use to help survivors feel brave and supported while you listen.

It can be comforting to remind a survivor the following:

- Their story is their own and they get to decide when, how and who they want to share it with, if they ever want to share it.
- They don't ever need to tell us anything they don't feel comfortable telling us.
- You will keep this in confidence (it is so important to not go talk to anyone about what the survivor/victim has told you unless they are a minor and then you have to report to law enforcement and DHS/CYS, even if it is only a moral obligation, you do have an obligation)

Helpful phrases to use:

I am thinking of you right now.

It's ok to feel the way (everything) you are feeling.

Take all the time you need, I'll be here to listen when you want to talk.

I believe you. (***This is one of the most important things you can say***)

I'm so sorry that happened to you.

Thank you for sharing that with me.

You didn't deserve that.

That was wrong for them to do that to you.

You deserved to be treated better than that.

You are not crazy!

It's ok to say no!

This is a normal reaction to have after having been through such a thing.

If forgiveness is brought up: Forgiveness is a big part of Amish & Plain life. It is not the same as healing, though. While someone is healing, they may struggle with forgiveness. This is normal! Forgiveness comes through healing.

Things you can ask:

How can I best support you? You may not know yet--that's OK. If you think of something you can let me know.

Are you safe now? (If the person is not safe, you may need to contact a professional like someone from a Domestic Violence Center to help them generate a best practice safety plan.)

Do you have enough clothes?

Do you have a way to get to your appointments?

Do you need help finding a place to live?

Do you need help finding a job?

Can I bring a meal over for you this week?

Do you need a gas card to help you get to your appointments?

I'll be by later this week to drop off a package of tissues--is there anything else you need?

Give choices:

Sometimes it can be as simple as would you like a hot or cold drink?

Would you like me to search for some possible qualified counselors for you to choose from, or do you feel comfortable doing that on your own?

Things you can offer to do:

Help with day-to-day things (fix a meal, mow the lawn etc)

Sit with the victim in court

Donate money

Donate food

Spend a holiday with them or invite them to your home for a holiday

Do the chores

Help with safe trustworthy people to watch their children

Offer to listen

Offer to spend time with them doing something they want to do



Brought to you by:



T H E P L A I N P E O P L E ' S
P O D C A S T



A Better Way

©2022 The Misfit Amish
www.themisfitamish.com