



## Breaking the Code of Silence

If you know something. If you think you know something... don't wait. **Break the code!**

### What is the "code of silence"?

- "Don't talk to adults" rule.
- Don't get other kids in trouble.
- Don't tell on your friends, don't be a "narc,"; a "tattler,"; or a "crybaby".
- Don't make yourself vulnerable to attacks from another student.

### Why is the code a problem?

- Someone could get harassed, bullied, injured, beaten up, or killed.
- You could feel guilty if you knew something bad was going to happen and you didn't report it.
- If you know of a problem, and say nothing, you share in the responsibility for that problem.

### Why break the code?

- Everyone will feel more safe.
- You may prevent someone from being harassed, bullied, injured, beaten up, or killed.
- You will feel better about yourself by doing the right thing.

### How to break the code:

- Don't wait for someone else to tell.
- As soon as possible, tell an adult you trust. You can always turn to a teacher, counselor, custodian, neighbor, or your parent.
- If you are still worried about the information you may have, tell another adult.
- Your safety and confidentiality are important, so let the person you tell know if you are worried that your report gets traced back to you.

Your school. Your friends. Your life. Your responsibility. **Break the code!**