

You Tell The Story

Peer-to-Peer Abuse on the Bus



May 13th

Michaela (7 y.o.) is excited to take part in the local after school program.

She's especially excited to ride the bus.

May 15th

Michaela's first few days go well, but she finds the environment on the bus overwhelming. Kids are sitting in mixed age groups, and there is a lot of teasing, acting out, and chaotic behavior.

There is only one supervising adult on the bus, and they sit at the front.

May 20th

Johnny (10 y.o.) sits next to Michaela on the bus. He's much bigger than she is, and he keeps putting his arm around her shoulder.

She doesn't like it, but does not know how to tell him to stop. The supervisor on the bus notices this behavior, but assumes it is innocent 'horse play.'

May 21st

Johnny sits next to Michaela again on the bus. He makes sexual jokes, and grabs her between her legs.

She does not cry out for help, but leaves the bus visibly upset and crying.

May 22nd

The organization's CEO receives an angry call from Michaela's parents. They report that she was sexually assaulted on the bus, and that they are pulling her out of the after school program.

May 23rd

The CEO sends an email to staff reminding them of the importance of supervision on the bus. No further action is taken.

Meanwhile, Michaela is home watching TV with her grandparents. No other after school is available. She worries about summer camp, because she'll have to ride a bus.

June 14th

The CEO receives a letter informing him that Michaela's parents have retained counsel and are suing the organization.

Five other families have pulled their children from the afterschool program.

**But *you* have the power to
change the story...**