

Child Abuse at Before- and After-School Programs

Approximately 50% of the child sexual abuse claims reported to Markel occur between students. Most frequently, the perpetrator is male. Many of these claims occur at before- and after school-programs (some supervised by a group other than the school staff). The following are some practical steps you can take to reduce the risk of a child abuse occurrence:

- If a third party uses your school for a before-or after-school program, make sure your school is listed as an additional insured on their insurance policy every year.
- Secure the parts of your school that are not to be used for the before- or after-school program. Conduct a walk-through of your classrooms and bathrooms before locking up in the afternoon.
- If a student in your after-school program needs tutoring, be sure to get parental permission allowing the student to leave your program with the teacher.
- Do not place posters over door windows.
- Install a vent on bathroom doors to permit better audible monitoring.
- Establish minimum requirements for before- and after-school programs such as supervision ratios, mandatory criminal background checks, and a written policy about staff to student relationships away from the school.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.