

How To Stop Child Abuse in A Public Place

It can be very uncomfortable to watch the mistreatment of a child by an adult whose behavior is out of control. Fortunately, there are things you can do to help....

- **Divert the adult's attention.** Start a conversation with the adult. Offer sympathy. For example, you could say, "Shopping with children can really try your patience, can't it?"
- **Talk to the child.** If the child is acting out or misbehaving, start a friendly conversation to distract him or her.
- **Praise the adult or child.** Find something positive to say about the child or the adult. For example, "That's a cute outfit your child is wearing. That color looks nice."
- **Offer to help.** Ask the adult if there is some way you can help.
- **Avoid negative looks or comments.** This may only increase the adult's anger, making things worse for the child.
- **Call Police or 911 if you feel the child is in danger.**

