

**Colorado Youth Soccer**  
**KIDSAFE Risk Management**  
**Warning Signs**  
**Protecting the Player from the Pedophile**

As a member of US Youth Soccer, Colorado Youth Soccer (CYS) and affiliated Clubs have adopted the KIDSAFE Program to exclude from program responsibilities any person with a legally documented history of child molestation. Coaches, administrators and employees agree to a legally sensitive background check before or during the program's operations. Although background checks are effective to identify convicted offenders, they are not "fail safe" in preventing the potential pedophile or the one who hasn't been caught. To this point, KIDSAFE instills education to create a culture of safety from the bottom up.

**Suspect Adult Behaviors – Warning Signs**

The behaviors below were summarized from *Stop If Now*, a national non-profit organization that focuses on the prevention of sexual abuse against children. For more information visit their website at [www.stopitnow.org](http://www.stopitnow.org). The adult:

- Often has a "special" player, maybe a different one from season to season
- Spends most of his/her spare time with player(s) and shows little interest in spending time with someone their own age
- Encourages silence and secrets with players
- Shares personal or private information or activities with the player
- Has secret interactions with specific players
- Spends excessive time to emailing, text messaging or calling the player
- Insists on or manages to spend uninterrupted time alone with the player
- Seems "too good to be true", i.e. takes player(s) on "special" outings without other adults

**Prevention Tips**

Ralston House Child Advocacy Center is a non-profit organization in Jefferson County that assisted over 600 abused children in 2008. Ralston House suggests the following prevention tips.

- Note if one-on-one activities are open and observable
- Stay and observe a practice session or two
- Parents, talk to your player; check in to see how the training session went
- Players, talk to your parents; is an adult making you uncomfortable or pushing personal boundaries
- Pay attention; is your player uncomfortable being around a certain adult
- Trust your instincts

Soccer is a great sport driven by passion and dedication of those who administrate, coach, volunteer and play. KIDSAFE compliments that passion and dedication by closing the door on a small minority of society who could utilize the sport for possible risk of sexual abuse to the player.