

Teen pregnant... 'Raped by dad, living with uncle'

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THE Child Protection Unit has intervened in the case of a 16-year-old girl who says she is pregnant, having been raped multiple times by her father and his brother.

The case became public after two videos were uploaded on Monday on Facebook. In the videos, the teenager disclosed details of the sexual abuse.

In a release on Tuesday the Children's Authority called the content of the video "disturbing".

The release stated: "The Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago finds the content of a video circulating on social media, involving a teenage girl, very disturbing. As soon as the video was posted to social media, the Authority's Emergency Response Team was alerted and the Tobago branch of the Child Protection Unit was contacted to investigate the incident.

"The authority is treating the matter with the established procedures, while affording it the sensitivity that it deserves, for the protection and privacy of the child involved".

In the videos, the child told the person who is interviewing her that she was first molested by her father when she was eight years old.

She said that she told her mother and grandmother of the incidents but both accused her of lying.

She said that use of illegal drugs and alcohol was frequent at her house.

The girl said that after years of the incestuous relationship with her father, she left her home which she had shared with 12 siblings and went to Tobago to live with his brother.

In the second video, the uncle told the interviewer that he is in love with his niece, and he is not afraid of the police.

The man and the girl, whose faces are not shown, are seen holding hands sitting together.

The girl said that she believes that she is seven or eight months pregnant but was uncertain whether the child's father is her father or her uncle.

Listen to your children

In the release, the authority appealed to adults not to dismiss children who report incidents of abuse.

"The Children's Authority is pleading with parents and guardians to pay close attention to stories of abuse from their children and don't dismiss their claims of abuse as untruths. Responding positively to a child's claim can save the child from further harm.

"All incidents of child abuse should be reported to the police or to the authority's hotline, 996 or 800-2014," it stated.