

Family Focus

Coping with bedwetting

According to the National Kidney foundation approximately five to seven million children ages 6 and up suffer from enuresis, commonly known as bed-wetting.

The causes of bed-wetting are not known for sure, but research suggests that some children who wet the bed may not have enough of a hormone called antidiuretic hormone (ADH) during sleep. This hormone enables the kidney to hold onto more water, resulting in less urine filling the bladder. However, in most cases no underlying physical problems are found. Your child most likely does not have a kidney problem, but you should check with your doctor to be sure.

It is important to remember that even though there may not be something physically wrong with your child, bed-wetting is not something they do on purpose. Your child will need extra support to deal with the shame and embarrassment they face associated with bed-wetting.

Medications and therapies are available to help bed-wetters, but a physician should be consulted before a treatment option is selected. Some treatment options include:

- Medications including a nasal spray called desmopressin (DDAVP)
- Limiting fluid intake
- Waking the child to go to the bathroom during the night
- Exercises to stretch and condition the bladder
- Moisture alarms

The National Kidney Foundation of North Carolina is one of the 52 Affiliates of the National Kidney Foundation, Inc., the nation's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of kidney and urologic diseases. For more information on bed-wetting or any other kidney related diseases call 1-800-356-5362

Hunt earmarks victims aid

Gov. Jim Hunt has recommended \$1.26 million in his expansion budget to boost the Victim Assistance Program and provide more support for crime victims and witnesses during court cases.

Hunt's budget calls for 41 additional positions—one for each District Attorney office in North Carolina—to help victims and witnesses understand and prepare for the cases they are involved in.

"Victims of crime should come first in the justice," Hunt said. "That's why we need to do more to protect victims and their families, and give them a stronger voice in the process."

In 1995, Hunt called for a referendum on a Victims' Rights Amendment to the state constitution. The General Assembly approved the referendum and the voters enacted it by a 78% vote in the 1996 November election. The amendment guarantees a victim's right to be heard at sentencing and to be involved in court proceedings relating to their case.

In 1994, Hunt increased resources for the Victim's Compensation Fund to \$2.5 million, and the General Assembly allocated \$3 million to help clean a backlog of victim's compensation claims. In addition, the Hunt administration has earmarked revenue from prison labor—more than \$480,000—into the victim's Compensation Fund, and Hunt has provided \$150,000 to the Victim's Assistance Network.

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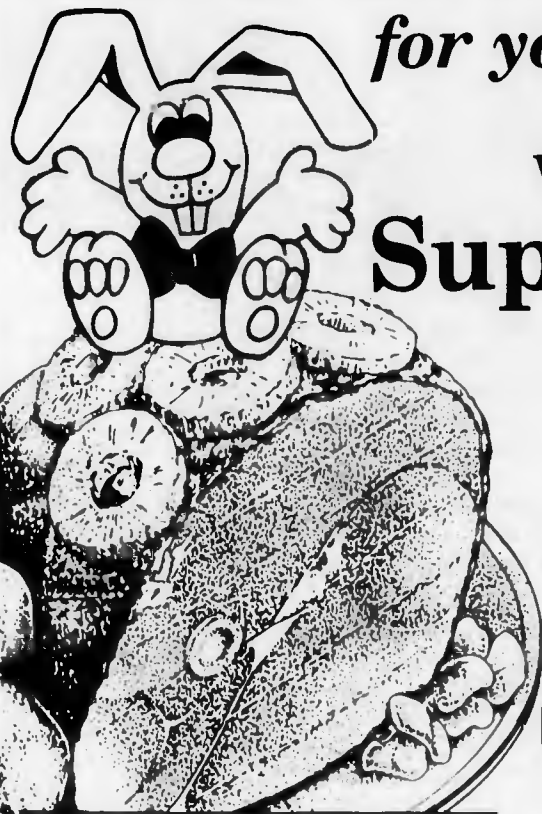
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