



## OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

- To determine the nature and scope of the abuse, to assess the child victim's physical and emotional condition, and to determine whether the child needs immediate medical services and/or crisis counseling.
- To assess the perpetrator to determine whether legal and court involvement will be necessary to protect the child during the investigation phase.
- To determine whether the non-offending parent believes the child victim, and whether the parent is willing and able to protect the child from the perpetrator.
- To provide the child victim with support and reassurance, and to help family members support the child; thereby lessening the likelihood of retribution and reducing the chance that the child will falsely recant.
- To determine the capacity of the non-offending parent and other family members to provide the child with emotional support and help the child in his/her recovery.
- To identify the immediate needs of the non-offending parent and initiate supportive services that enable his/her to stabilize the family and maintain the child in the home.

Written and Revised by The Institute for Human Services for the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training and Certification Program. 232 Investigative Interviewing in Child Sexual Abuse Cases.

**Handout 2-2**