



COMPLEXITY OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

- The young age of many victims and their corresponding verbal skills and level of competency.
- The general lack of substantive physical and corroborative evidence.
- Rigorous denial by the victim, perpetrator, or family members (especially in cases of incest.)
- Victim or witness tampering and intimidation, often leading to recanted or conflicting statements or testimony.
- Rights and protections afforded to defendants which make testimony by victims in criminal proceedings difficult.
- Family pressures and issues adversely affecting children and resulting in an inaccurate statement of abuse.

This information is from "Child Abuse And Exploitation," Office of Juvenile Justice And Delinquency Prevention, April 1995.

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.

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