

WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH SIBLINGS

Child Welfare Professionals need to effectively work with siblings by:

- Assessing whether the sibling of the identified victim may also have been victimized. (This may include conducting a forensic interview with the sibling.)

- Attempt to corroborate the details of the identified victim's statements with information relayed by the siblings. (i.e., the disclosing victim may report that her stepfather comes into her room at night, shuts the door and rapes her. The sibling of this victim may state that she sees her step-father go into her sister's room at night and then hears her sister crying later.) This is corroborative information.

- Encourage the family to include the sibling in the family discussion as is age-appropriate.

- Discuss with the sibling what happened to the family and discuss what is going to happen in the future, age-appropriately.

- Refer the sibling to therapy as appropriate.