

Module 5: Specialized Forensic Training for Interviewing Victims of HT & CSAM

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Forensic Resilience Training Academy



1. Mitigating the Impact of Secondary Trauma (MIST): Theory & Practice for Self Preservation and Team Care
2. Trauma-informed Identification and Screening of Victims of HT & CSEC
3. Trauma-informed Response and Trauma-specific Services for Victims of HT & CSAM
4. Working with Adolescent Victims in Cases of Youth-produced Sexual Image(s)
5. Specialized Forensic Training for Interviewing Victims of HT & CSEC
6. Developing a Trauma-informed Community Response to HT & CSEC*



Before we begin, we'd like to let you know...



- This training session will be **recorded** (and why)
- We are **evaluating** this training (and why)
- Training sessions may include discussion of topics such as child sexual assault, physical violence, and emotional harm. We acknowledge the content may be difficult and encourage you to **care for your safety and well-being**.
- This project is **funded by** the OJJDP FY2021 - VOCA Children's Advocacy Centers National Subgrant Program - Domestic Trafficking Victims Funds (CFDA #16.834)
- After each training, you will receive a follow-up email with additional resources.
- At the end of the Academy, you will receive a resource guide.



Mindfulness

Remembering to be present in the full experience positive or negative



Meditation



Breath Work



Presence



Balance



Engagement



Introductions



Mary Beth Nelson



Ricky Lynn

Agenda



COMMUNITY MEETING: A Trauma-Informed Check-In



INTERVIEW CONSIDERATIONS: Who, What, When, Where, & How



BARRIERS IN THE INTERVIEW (and how to address them)



IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR TESTIFYING IN COURT



TRC Model Tool #1



Community Meeting Practice



**How are you
feeling?**

**What is your
goal?**

**Who can
support you?**





Protective Practices: Armor Vs. Shield



VS



BRIEF RECAP

- The forensic interview is a core component of the assessment process to allow for a youth's voice to be heard (and hopefully not repeated).
- The pre-interview meeting is also important to connect with MDT and also to gather information



Interview Considerations

- Timing
- Location
- Partners present
- Number of interviews
- Preparing the youth for the forensic interview
- Taking notes during the interview



Best Practices

- Building rapport
- Explanations
- Permission to not talk or share certain information
- Narrative practice
- Use of open-ended questions
- Checking in with the youth throughout the forensic interview
- Respectful closure

Rapport builds relationships



OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS



Laws pertaining to HT/CSAM

In no place in the United States is child pornography legal. Tennessee penalizes the creators and owners of child pornography based on their conduct. The more involved the conduct, the more severe the consequences.

Unlike those of some states, Tennessee child pornography offenses don't rely on the age of the victim significantly. Thus, child pornography with a 17 year old can be treated the same as with a 4 year old. Also, prosecutors don't have to prove the age of the child in the pornographic materials, so appearing to depict children under 18 in a sexual manner is enough to be charged with child porn offenses.

Basic *sexual exploitation of a minor* is knowingly possessing material showing a child under 18 engaged in sexual activity or simulated sexual activity that's patently offensive. Sexual activity is considered **any of the following**:

- **Vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse**
- **Masturbation**
- **Insertion of any body part or object into another's anus or vagina (except for appropriate medical procedures)**
- **Offensive physical contact of genitals, buttocks, or breasts**
- **Sadomasochism**
- **Offensive depictions of excretions**
- **Exhibition of genitals, buttocks, anuses, or female breasts**

This lowest level child porn possession offense is a Class D felony, unless there are more than 50 images or films, then it's a Class C Felony, and if there's over 100 images or films it's a Class B felony.

What to Collect on a CSAM Case

It is common for child molesters to have their victims handle sexual materials as a means of acquainting them with various sexual behaviors. Investigators must therefore view all sexual items and materials at an abuser's residence as evidence that may help identify the user's victims. Investigators should photograph each object; locate hairs, fibers, or any other foreign debris; collect serological samples; and process and identify fingerprints. Trace evidence should be processed first, because various fingerprint techniques may destroy semen or serological trace evidence. After serological samples are taken, a light should be used to determine if there are any images present, such as visible fingerprints. For fingerprints, super glue cyanoacrylate works best on the plastic black cassette tapes and on glossy magazines. All trace evidence and fingerprints should be photographed prior to lifting.

Related Offenses

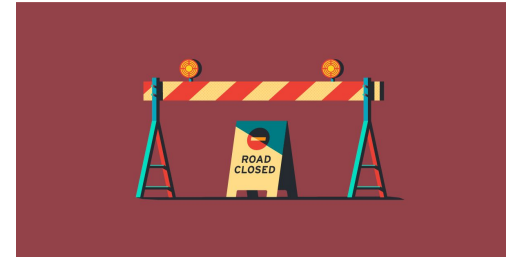
39-17-1003: Sexual Exploitation of a Minor

39-17-1004: Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of a Minor

39-17-1005: Especially Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of a Minor

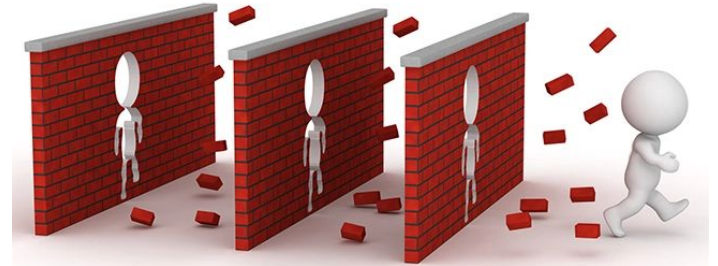
Barriers in the Interview

- Overall resistance to talking about exploitation
- Child is upset with one of the partners identified as observing
- Protection of suspects
- Don't know how to identify suspects
- Fearful for safety
- Unknown locations
- Child discloses multiple incidents of assault by multiple offenders in multiple locations
- Child feels like they are re-telling their story over and over again



Ways to Address/Reduce Barriers

- Consider allowing the child to meet the investigative team and ask questions before the interview
- Providing choice and reassurance during the interview
- Reminding youth of attitude and non-judgement
- Don't take the anger directed at you personally
- Introducing evidence in the interview



Preparing for More Than One Interview

- Leaving the door open in case child wants to talk further
- Following up because of information (that was not known at referral) disclosed during the interview



Important Considerations for Testifying in Court

Important concepts to explain to the jury:

- Recruitment
- Reasons why children may not leave
- Coercion methods of traffickers
- How/why children may not identify as victims when first identified

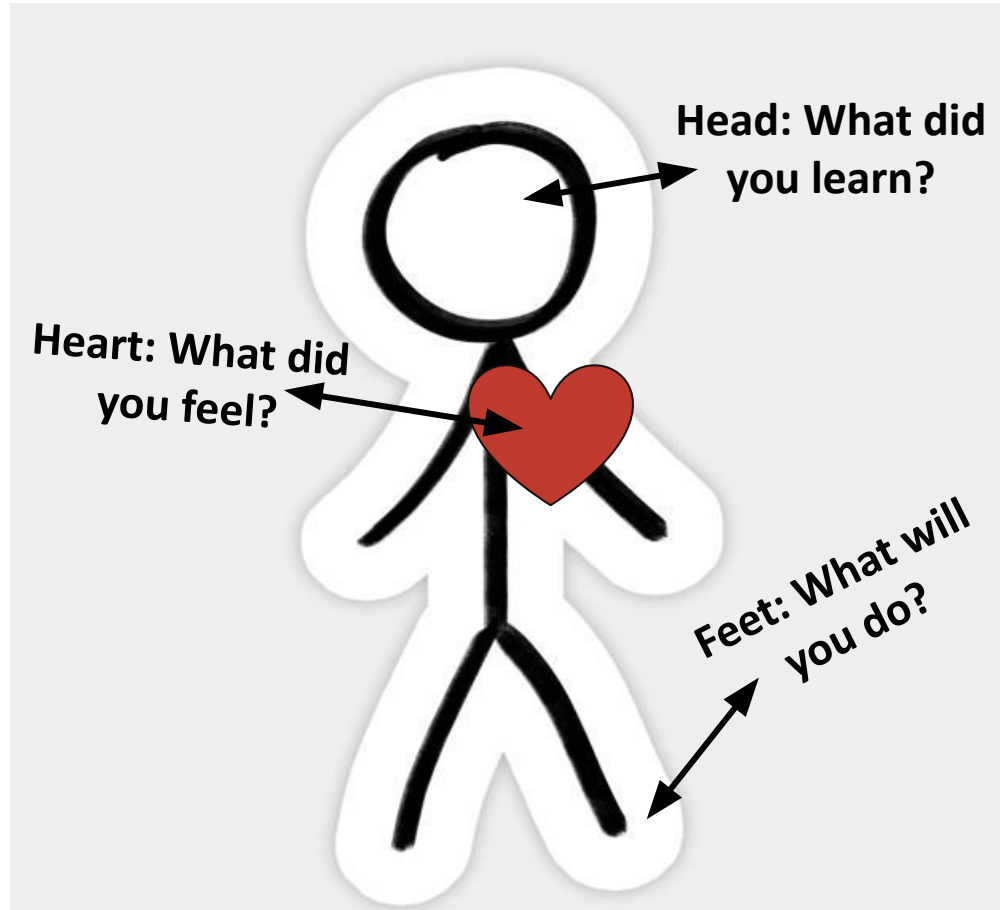


Resources

- National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC)
 - FIT: Forensic Interview Training
 - Introducing Evidence in the Forensic Interview
- Local FBI and HSI resources - can assist with additional information, resources, and training
- OJJDP Child Forensic Interviewing Best Practices
- Consider developing targeted PEER REVIEW process for FIs re: HT/CSAM



Questions & Reflections



We want your feedback!

- Remaining Training Sessions
 - Module 6: Developing a Trauma-Informed Community Response to HT and CSAM
 - Thursday, November 17th from 10am-4pm CST (in person in TN)



“The eyes cannot see what the mind does not know.”



- From D.H. Lawrence



Thank you!

Contact us

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