

Corroborating the Child Sex Trafficking Investigation

*Presented by
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Victim Investigative Challenges/Issues

- “Compliant” victim
- Unique status of being both a victim and offender
- Prior criminal record
- “Perceived” love for offender
- Appear to be, and pass themselves off as adults
- Drug and alcohol abuse

Investigative Mindset

- Always look for ways to corroborate the victims statement
- It is the name of the game
 - Best way to overcome perceived “challenges/pereceptions”
 - Returns investigative time

Building the Case

- Basic rules
 - Maintaining the victim
 - Utilizing available laws
 - Dual prosecution
 - Corroborating the victim’s statement

Maintaining the Victim

- Starts with the Interview
 - Must be done immediately
- Must establish control
- Maintain contact with the victim throughout the process
 - Daily at first
 - Weekly
- Victim witnesses programs
- Involve the parents?

Utilize Available Laws

- *Think outside the box*
- Local laws
 - Citations (pimps, prostitutes)
 - State laws
 - Compelling prostitution
 - Sexual assault statutes
 - Probation/Parole

Corroborating the Victim's Statement

- Starts with the interview/contact
 - Makes the child real
 - Makes the abuse/exploitation real
 - Eliminates swearing match
- Corroboration is the best way to overcome "perceived" victim issues

Corroborative Evidence

- Can help prove case without victim's testimony
 - May not be possible, *but should be a goal*
- Can help in obtaining voluntary statement from suspect
- Assist prosecution

Corroborative Evidence

- Assist the Prosecution
 - Telling the story
 - Recreating the event
 - Can provide *demonstrative* evidence
 - Helps present a stronger case/plea bargain

Demonstrative Evidence

- Makes the event real for the jury
- Less abstract
- Helps establish a *connection*
- Helps tell the story
- Helps recreate the event/abuse

Examples of Corroborative Evidence

- How the child met the pimp
- Seduction process/alienation
- Sexual abuse by pimp
- Violence/drugs
- Location where child was required to work
 - Photos
 - Pole cameras

Examples of Corroborative Evidence

- Other victims
- Associates
- Hotel records
- Bus tickets/airline tickets
- Hospital records
- Photos of new and old injuries
- Tickets/contacts with police
- CPS records

Examples of Corroborative Evidence

- Other names used by victim
- Other locations taken to
- Cell phone records/pagers
- One party consent phone calls
- Search warrants
- *Anything/Everything!!!*

Age Investigation

- Starts with the Interview
 - How she met the suspect
 - Phone calls (Home, School, Friends)
 - Did suspect ever pick her up at school
 - What did she do at suspect place for entertainment
 - Did suspect ever let her drive

Age Investigation

- Associate or witness Interview
 - What did the complainant watch on TV
 - Did complainant ever talk about her mother, family
 - Did the complainant ever drive
 - Did complainant ever get a hotel room

Trafficking Interrogation Dynamics

- Different from traditional interrogation technique
- How and why Different?
 - Suspect dynamics
 - Offense dynamics

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Psychopath/Sociopath Interrogation

- Traditional interrogation techniques not successful
 - Does not respond to threat of consequences or punishment

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Psychopath/Sociopath Interrogation Strategy

- Exploit weaknesses
 - Egoentric
 - Controlling, manipulative
 - Sense of superiority
 - Explosive (Sociopath)
 - Mistakes may occur when they lose emotional control
 - Possible previous trauma (Sociopath)
 - Make them the victim by letting them talk about how mistreated they are/were

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**Use of
Search Warrants
and
One Party Consent Phone Calls
to
Corroborate the Victim's
Statement/Abuse**

**Practical Examples
Case Studies**

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