



C.A.T.S. Chats

CHILD ABUSE TRAINING SERVICES
PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF MI

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Together we can make a difference.

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Julie A. Welch, Editor

Happy Spring, I think. Rain, snow, sun, mud, ahhh yes, it's Spring in Michigan!!!

As I anticipated writing this column today I found it difficult to come up with a theme. Everything I wanted to talk about we have covered in this newsletter. I find so many topics important when it comes to our children that I often have a hard time narrowing something down. So I've decided to pose a question to all that read this, not a question that you need to get back with me about, but one for you to ponder and consider in your days as parents, caregivers, child abuse professionals and protectors of our children.



When does discipline become abuse?

Let me elaborate a little more. I met with a wonderful man and his wife last week in regards to our advanced child abuse training class we are putting together. This man is a successful author, a businessman, a fierce child advocate, a loving husband, a friend you would be thankful to have, and a Michigan child abuse survivor. As we discussed many different topics, the question posed to all of you was asked. Innocently enough, we glazed over it at first but I found myself returning to the general premise of this question. So, the question asked to me was, "If I came over there and slapped you across the face, what would happen?" Very interesting, many things indeed could happen, but I knew where we were going with this. In the end someone would likely be charged with an assault and battery crime. Fair enough I suppose, but now picture this. You're in the supermarket and can hear the cries of an unhappy toddler in the produce aisle, you can also hear a very stressed, worn out parent yelling back, making threats of not getting a special treat, to being left in the car alone next time, to telling the other parent at home, to spanking. Then you see it, a slap across the crying mouth of the toddler. What do you do?

I used to have a co-worker that often spoke of this exact thing. She would approach the child and try to "entertain" the child to get it's attention onto something else. Or she would make light conversation with the parent to allow their stress levels to relax a little. I've personally found that something as easy as making eye contact with the parent deters their actions. These are things we can all do.

Out of this meeting we came to a conclusion that would make many child advocates happy. Be aware. April is Child Abuse Awareness month. What better time than April to be aware of what is going on around you. If everyone was alertly aware of what was going on, we could possibly help reduce the number of child abuse crimes in Michigan. Wouldn't we all like to be a part of that!!!

Check our website for contact information for area police and DHS agencies.

Forensic Interviewing

Remember that the Michigan Forensic Interviewing Protocol is required by Michigan's Child Protection Law for child abuse professionals interviewing children. Please make sure you are attending an authorized Michigan training. The Child Abuse Training Services department within PAAM is governed by DHS and the Governor's Task Force to provide this two day training. **It is the only approved training within the state by these two entities.** You can always check our website to assure you are attending an actual PAAM training. Attending out of state trainings also does not fulfill your obligation of forensic interviewing training.

There is no charge to attendees for registration fees or materials. **DHS employees only** can contact our office to see if funds are available to cover meals, mileage and overnight expenses.

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APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH!!

Calling Experienced Investigators!!!

We need your ideas for our three day advanced training. Please let me know what would help you at your level with child abuse investigations. Please email your ideas, length of time as an investigator and contact info to

welchj@michigan.gov



JUDGE ORDERS RESTITUTION FOR PORN VICTIM

February 23, 2009

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut - A federal judge in Connecticut has ordered a British man convicted of possessing child pornography to pay about \$200,000 in restitution to a woman photographed as a child while being sexually abused. Senior U.S. District Judge Warren W. Eginton said his ruling Monday was the first criminal case in which someone convicted of possessing illegal images — but not creating them — is required to pay restitution.

"We're dealing with a frontier here," Eginton said, adding that judges have discretion with criminal restitution orders.

The case involves Alan Hesketh who was sentenced in October to 78 months in prison for possessing and distributing nearly 2,000 photographs of child pornography. Hesketh, a resident of Stonington, Conn., vice president of Pfizer.

70% of all reported sexual assaults in the U.S. are children.

was a

'A feeling of revulsion'

Pictures of the victim as a child being subjected to sexual abuse turned up in Hesketh's collection, according to prosecutors.

"There is a feeling of revulsion about this type of conduct," Eginton said, noting that Hesketh and his family were humiliated and his career was ruined.

Hesketh's attorney, Jonathan Einhorn, said he would appeal the order, calling it unreasonable and predicting it would probably lead to similar claims by child pornography victims. He said his client had no contact with the woman and defendants should only pay restitution to victims whose injuries they directly caused.

Einhorn also said the woman had not proven she was one of those whose image turned up on Hesketh's computer, and those who actually participated in creating pornography in other cases were ordered to pay less restitution than his client.

But James Marsh, the woman's attorney, said there is no distinction between those who produce the pornography and what Hesketh did.

"The victim is a victim of sexual exploitation caused by this defendant," Marsh said.

'A terrific precedent'

Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said he hopes the ruling leads to more restitution orders and that they serve as deterrents to child pornography.

"We think this is a terrific precedent," Allen said. "The photos stay out there forever. Every time they are downloaded, every time they are distributed, the victim in that image is revictimized."

What YOU say:

- * Of all the engagements I've done, this was hands down the most effective experience in truly making a difference, and for that opportunity Lisa and I would like to thank you.—Chip St. Clair, CATS presenter and Author of The Butterfly Garden
- * Julie, Thank you for your guidance and advice on talking with my victim "Brandi", she was fantastic and made it through the testimony just fine. The jury found the "bad guy" guilty of CSC 1st & CSC 2nd x 2! Keep up the good work!! - Grand Traverse Detective
- * All the content in the 'Covering the Case: From the first interview to the closing arguments' is extremely valuable, and can be applied immediately to my work. I would highly recommend this seminar to other CPS worker —Leslie Patten (CPS)



Other Child Abuse News....

Bail Ordered

Oregon City, Oregon (AP) - A Clackamas County judge has ordered the state DHS to bail a rape suspect out of jail so he can help plan care for his junior-high age son. Judge Deanne Darling's order was obtained by the Oregonian newspaper. It directs "DHS to post bail or otherwise assist father in being freed from jail." The order does not say why Darlin believes Russell Hamblen must be let out of the county jail to participate in planning discussions. State attorneys will ask the judge to reverse her decision. Meanwhile, DHS officials say the agency lacks the authority to post Hamblen's bail, which is set at \$500,000. The 50-year old Hamblen and another son, 19 year-old Paul Hamblen, were arrested in April on charges they provided alcohol to teenage girls and forced them to have sex. The son pleaded guilty to multiple sex crimes and was sentenced to five years in prison.

A Prior Sexual Act That Is Not Admissible under MCL 768.27A, May Still Be Admitted Under MRE 404(B)

The defendant was convicted of two counts of 1st degree CSC and one count of 2nd degree CSC for sexually assaulting his 11 year old daughter. A step daughter testified that the defendant exposed himself to her three times when she was the same age. Judges Donofrio, Murphy and Kelly considered whether the acts were admissible under MCL

768.27a and/or MRE 404(b).

They noted that MCL 768.27a would allow admission of the prior acts of exposure if they qualify as listed offenses under the Sex Offender Registration Act.

They further noted that section 2 of the SORA, MCL 28.772(e)(iv) includes indecent exposure as a listed offense only if the person has two prior violations. Accordingly, they held that only the 3rd incident of exposure should have been admitted under the statute.

They further held, however, that even though the first two incidents were not admissible under MCL 767.28a, they were properly admitted under MRE 404(b).

The statute and the rule of evidence are not mutually exclusive. *People v Smith*, CA no. 277736, January 29, 2009.

**IN 2007, THERE WERE
29,638 MICHIGAN
CHILDREN CONFIRMED TO
BE VICTIMS OF CHILD
ABUSE AND NEGLECT.**

CATS UPCOMING TRAININGS

March 30	The dangers of 2nd Life	Lansing
April 13-14	Forensic Interviewing	Oakland
April 14	Medical Issues	Oakland
May 6-7	Forensic Interviewing	Grand Rapids
July 10	Investigative Techniques	Petoskey

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Advanced Child Abuse Training Investigation: A brand new three day training for the experienced worker.

A U.P. Forensic Interviewing seminar to be held this summer

Forensic Interviewing peer review groups

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR TRAINING UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
WWW.MICATS.ORG**



Helping Kids Resolve Cyber Issues — Larry Rosen, a psychology professor at California State University, Dominguez Hills, and author of *Me, MySpace and I*:

When your kids were younger, you talked to them about the dangers of crossing the street. You may have also talked to them about the potential to be bullied at school and to report any problems to an adult. In the same vein, experts say, you should be talking to your children about the risks of the virtual world on the Internet.

“As they're creating social networks and making friends online, there are things that can happen out there,” says Rosen. “A lot of things happen because this is the Internet. There is this sense of anonymity they can hide behind. Kids aren't necessarily savvy about that.”

Dealing with cyber issues requires parents to open the lines of communication. Your kids need to feel that they can confide in you. Here are some guidelines on how to open up those channels and help your child resolve online difficulties:

- **Make talks a common occurrence** Rosen suggests starting weekly 15-minute parent-child conversations that can include talking about their experiences online. “Try to do them in an unassuming way,” he says. “Family dinners are a good time to have these discussions.”
- **Listen, listen and listen** “Parents should talk about one-third of the time and kids should talk about two-thirds of the time,” Rosen says. “You really have to listen to what your kids are saying. They're really the experts now. Most of us parents haven't experienced this firsthand.”
- **Remember it's not about technology** It is not about the computer. “Technology is just a tool,” “If it's real cyber bullying, it's about school. The emerging definition of cyber bullying is that it's linked to their school life.”

Talk to your children about their own online and offline behavior *Studies have found that the perpetrators of cyber bullying are most likely someone at your child's school. Talk to your child about what may be going on at school that might have spilled over to the Internet. Work together to understand the situation before deciding on the next course of action, such as contacting another child's parents or the school.*

Parent's Place

**Are kids really safe at the doctors office?
Being proactive and informed may have prevented this
abuse.**

Lurid Details Released In Case Against Twin Doctors

Youngest Victim Was 5 Years Old; Victim's Father Speaks Out On Case

HAMILTON, Ohio -- Court documents released Wednesday by the Butler County clerk of courts reveal a long pattern of sexual abuse allegedly perpetrated by twin brothers who were also pediatricians.

Mark and Scott Blankenburg face dozens of charges of abusing young male patients, sometimes inside the examination room of their office.

According to the documents, the offenses occurred as early as June 1990. Some of the victims were 5 and 8 years old when prosecutors allege the abuse started.

Mark Blankenburg faced the most charges, 54, for offenses ranging from gross sexual imposition to drug trafficking. He is accused of abusing four young boys all under the age of 16.

One of the boys charged that he was paid with money and/or drugs to let Mark Blankenburg perform oral sex on him. Court documents allege that Mark Blankenburg also recorded three of these interludes.

Scott Blankenburg faced 22 charges and was accused of performing sex acts on two minors and fondling a 5-year-old boy.

**Doctor abuse continued:**

Both men faced 12 charges each for what appeared to be a collection of child pornography found inside the home that the two men shared.

Both men also faced charges of bribery and money laundering. Prosecutors accuse the pair of trying to influence the testimony of some of the now young men as police investigated the two doctors for drug and child sex crimes. Those charges span more than a decade, going back to 1992 and continuing up until Dec. 31, 2008.

The father of one of the victims is speaking out about the case. He said he wants people to understand the victims aren't just names on a court document.

"I found out about it 18 years later that the doctor molested my son when I took him in there," the man said. News 5 has decided to redact his name to protect the identity of his son.

He said that the visit to Dr. Mark Blankenburg's office completely changed his son's life.

"He was an A and B student, after that I couldn't get him to go to school or anything. He just dropped out," the father said.

He said that what made the situation worse was that he was there at the office when the alleged molestation happened.

"I took him in good faith to see the doctor to take care of him. You put your trust in people like that. It's awful," the father said.

Mark Blankenburg was being held on \$1 million bond. His brother, Scott, was given \$500,000 bond and was allowed to continue practicing medicine so long as another employee was present in the examination room.

What can parents do?

- * Always be present with your child. Unless there is a true medical emergency there should be no reason that a Dr. wouldn't allow a parent to attend a visit with their child. If this is happening you may want to consider changing Doctors.
- * Explain to your child that he can talk to you about anything.
- * Determine early on in your child's life when you want to explain "appropriate and not appropriate" touch. Tell them that these touches apply to EVERYONE! Including family members, coaches, dr's, teachers, classmates, etc. If someone does touch them inappropriately tell them they can always tell you without the risk of being in trouble and that you will always believe them. Then keep that promise!
- * Don't force young children to kiss and hug people, they don't want to. Yes, this means even aunts, uncles and grandparents! This is teaching a child that they must do something uncomfortable if an adult tells them to.
- * Be involved in your kids school, visit often, know your kids friends and their families. If you don't like something going on at school, speak up.
- * Meet with the parents of your kids core group of friends and discuss expectations. For example, if you don't let your child be home alone, make sure that they won't be alone when they visit others' houses.
- * Be aware of sexual predators that live in your area as well as around the school and then notify the school. You can find this information on www.familywatchdog.us. This information is free.
- * Never let your children chat with an unknown person online, even if they "think" it's a child of the same age with the same interests. Predators constantly are online trying to earn a child's trust only to later use that trust to hurt them.
- * Keep the computer in a high traffic area.
- * Know all of your children's passwords, websites they visit, etc. and then check them often with your child.
- * Above all trust your instincts, if something doesn't feel right or look right, go with it and try to figure out what may be going on.
- * Set aside time each day to really listen to your child. Open communication is a lifelong tool that you can teach your child!!



Together we can make a difference.

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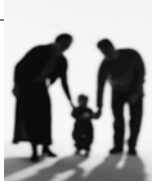
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The CATS mission is to promote multi disciplinary expertise in the prevention of child abuse by providing professionals with up-to-date information about suspected or alleged sexual or physical abuse, neglect and the training of Forensic Interviewing.

The Deleterious Effects of Child Abuse

Allan N. Schwartz, LCSW, Ph.D

For those who mistakenly believe that the damaging effects of child abuse are outgrown by adulthood this information may come as a painful surprise. The fact is that the effects of child abuse last into adulthood and throughout one's life. Its effects are often deleterious, meaning that the impact is often delayed and slow to develop but acute when they do occur. The consequence is that many adults who were abused during childhood experience its worst effects long after they have entered adulthood.

Males and females of all ages, ethnic groups and races come to the therapist's office seeking help for depression, anxiety and marital problems. In many of these cases the spouse or significant other has accused the patient of being abusive to their children or to themselves. Even when there is no present issue of child abuse, the patients who come for treatment are wearing the scars of having been abused during their childhoods.

What Are the Symptoms of Child Abuse in Adulthood?

An interesting observation about adult survivors of child abuse is the fact that many see no connection between their present life problems and the abuse they suffered as children. In fact, some people deny that the extreme punishment they suffered was abusive. Finally, many of them are convinced that they deserved what their parents did to them.

In their adulthood, the symptoms experienced by these patients are similar to those of other "average" people:

1. Low self-esteem.
2. Chronic, low level depression.
3. Generalized anxiety caused by no particular event in the present.
4. Panic attacks usually associated with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
5. Social isolation due to a lack of friendships.
6. Conflicted and difficult marriages.
7. Dissociate disorders in which the survivor of child abuse goes into a "fugue" state in which they are unaware of what they are doing or where they have been. It is a defense against stress which, when it happens, brings the person back to the original childhood trauma.
8. Most of the other symptoms associated with depression and anxiety.

Symptoms experienced mostly by those who were abused by children:

1. Lack of trust in other people. Sometimes this distrust can resemble paranoia.
2. Chronic feelings and thoughts of guilt about anything and everything that happens to them and to others.
3. A tendency to choose partners who continue the abusive behaviors they experienced during their childhood. Some of these people do become abusive but, most often they continue to re-experience abuse in their lives.
4. A fear that underneath, they are just like the abusive parent and that, therefore, they are inherently evil or are a "bad seed."