



# C.A.T.S. Chats

CHILD ABUSE TRAINING SERVICES  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF MI

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Jennifer Doerr, Editor

PAAM is pleased to announce that the Child Abuse Training Unit and the Crime Victim Rights Training Unit are merging. This new collaboration will allow us to provide additional and more specialized training opportunities to a broader audience.

It is our goal that the 2008 training opportunities offered by this new collaborative training unit will be diverse in topic and unique to the state of Michigan. These additional trainings will be of the same caliber as trainings offered nationally.

We hope that you will take the time to check our website at [www.micats.org](http://www.micats.org) and keep up to date with our newsgroups for information on the exciting new opportunities for professional development.

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## DEA: FLAVORED METH USE ON THE RISE

By Donna Leinwand, USA TODAY 11/7/07

Reports of candy-flavored methamphetamine are emerging around the nation, stirring concern among police and abuse prevention experts that drug dealers are marketing the drug to younger people.

The flavored crystals are available in California, Nevada, Washington, Idaho, Texas, New Mexico, Missouri and Minnesota, according to intelligence gathered by Drug Enforcement Administration agents from informants, users, local police and drug counselors, DEA spokesman Steve Robertson says.

"Drug traffickers are trying to lure in new customers, no matter what their age, by making the meth seem less dangerous," Robertson says.

Methamphetamine, a highly addictive stimulant, is usually a white or brownish, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that dissolves in water. It is usually smoked or snorted.

Among the new flavors are strawberry, known as "Strawberry Quick," chocolate, cola and other sodas, Robertson said. One agent reported a red methamphetamine that had been marketed as a powdered form of an energy drink, he said.

A patrol officer who stopped a car on Feb. 13 in a rural area of Greene County, Mo., seized a bag of "strawberry meth" from a female passenger, says Capt. Randy Gibson of the Greene County Sheriff's Department. The seized drug had a slight strawberry smell to it, he said.

Greene County deputies have seized colored meth before, Gibson says. Several years ago, blue methamphetamine, known as "Smurf dope" circulated in the area, Gibson said.

"It was nothing more than one of the local meth cooks taking a great deal of pride in his purity," Gibson says. "He ground up blue chalk to color it so he could market it as his."

Carson City, Nev., Undersheriff Steve Albertson says dealers often try to make their meth distinctive with color or a catchy name as a way to brand it. "Then they'll spread the word that this meth, whatever color it is, is the best kind of meth there is," he said.

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**CEU's are here  
for PAAM's  
Forensic  
Interviewing.**



## **THREE BOYS, 8 AND 9, CHARGED WITH RAPING 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL**

CNN.com 11/20/07

**MARIETTA, Georgia (CNN)** -- Three boys, ages 8 and 9, were charged Monday with raping an 11-year-old girl last week, court officials and police said.

"Never in my 20-plus years of law enforcement have I conceived of something like this," Police Chief Michael Wilkie of Acworth, Georgia, told CNN.

Clad in blue jumpsuits, the two 9-year-olds and one 8-year-old appeared in court in Cobb County, north of Atlanta, on Monday afternoon and were ordered to remain in custody until a further hearing. Family members were in court for their appearance, which was closed to reporters.

Wilkie said the girl told investigators she was raped Thursday evening. She was examined by doctors after her family reported the allegation late Saturday, and investigators questioned her extensively on Sunday, he said.

The father of one of the boys told The Associated Press that no force was used against the girl, and said the allegations have been leveled because the accuser "didn't want to get in trouble with her parents."

But Wilkie said children that young cannot legally consent to sex, "so we have to go with the charges we have."

He told the AP one of the boys was accused of threatening to hit the girl with a rock before the alleged assault.

He also said the investigation is "far from over," and investigators are looking into claims that after the alleged attack, the girl talked about it with her friends at a slumber party, the AP reported.

"The investigators who are following up on this have had a lot specialized training of forensic interviews with children," Wilkie told CNN. "We've sent them to a number of courses for this, and so we're confident that we've done that part of the investigation as best as we can. We think her story at this point is credible and that's why we went forward with the warrants."

He said investigators have lined up counseling for the girl, "and we'll follow up on this and hope that it comes to as best a resolution at the end as we can."

Cobb County District Attorney Pat Head told reporters the current rape charges against the boys would be replaced with juvenile charges, since they are too young to be prosecuted on felony charges. Under Georgia law, juvenile defendants must be at least 13 before a case can be transferred to the adult system.

## **CARE HOUSE VIDEOTAPE IS ADMISSIBLE AT MCR 3.972(C)(2) HEARING**

Two abused children were interviewed using Michigan's forensic interviewing protocol at the local care house. The interviews were videotaped. The prosecutor filed a pre-trial motion to admit the children's statements to the interviewer at trial under MCR 3.972(C)(2). The referee reviewed the videotape and determined that the statements of the children were reliable, and could be testified to by the interviewer. Jurisdiction over the children was established, and parental rights were ultimately terminated.

Judges Borrello, Jansen and Murray held that it was proper for the referee to view the videotape in making his decision under MCR 3.972(C)(2). They noted that MCL 712A.17b(5) specifically provides that a videotape statement of a child shall be admitted at all proceedings except the adjudicative stage instead of the live testimony of the witness. Because the MCR 3.972(C)(2) hearing was held pre-trial, before the adjudicative stage, admission of the tape at the hearing was proper. *In the Matter of Joie Archer, Andrew Nierescher II and Cheyenne Nierescher, Minors*, CA No. 275650, October 23, 2007.



## PUTTING YOU FIRST!

### POSITIVE AFFIRMATIONS CAN BE FUN!

Positive affirmations are a great tool to reprogram your unconscious mind from negative thinking to positive. The idea is to take positive statements of what you would like to see manifested, and repeat them enough so that they're part of your way of thinking and seeing the world; this operates in the same way that negative self-talk does, but in a way that benefits you. To come up with your own positive affirmations, use the following guidelines:

**Look At Your Intentions:** Think about what you are trying to create in your life. This means, look at the end product, and the behaviors, attitudes and traits you would like to see yourself develop in order to get there. Would you like to feel more peace? Would you like to practice more healthy lifestyle habits? Would you like to be a more supportive friend? You might want to write in a journal and brainstorm to figure out what's important to you and get to the heart of what you want to create in your life. (A good starting point is to imagine your ideal life, pretend a fairy has given you three wishes, or try to visualize what you were put on Earth to be.)

**Create Statements:** Once you get an idea of what you're aiming for, try to put that idea into a few simple statements that reflect the reality of what you want to create. Phrase the statements as if they *are already true*, not that you would *like them to be* true. For example, the affirmation, "I am feeling more peaceful each day," would be better than, "I want to feel more peaceful." This is because you are programming your subconscious mind to believe the statements, and that helps manifest them into reality. You're not trying to *want* something, you're trying to make it so.

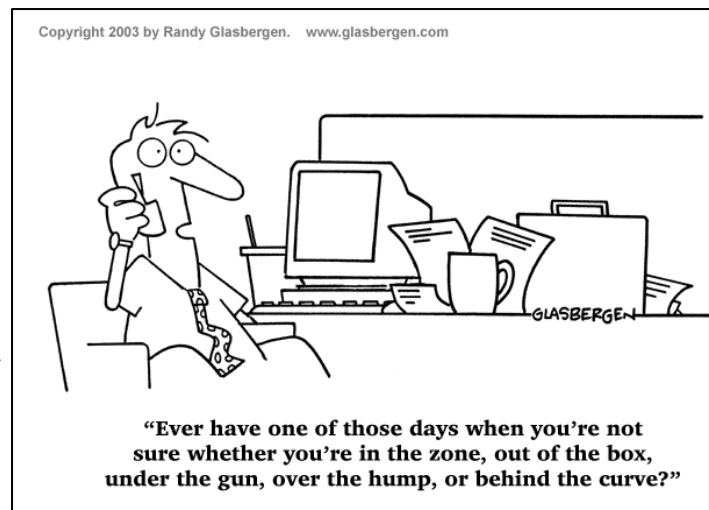
**Be Sure They're Positive:** When making positive affirmations, be sure they're *positive!* This means saying what you *want* to see and experience, not what you *don't want* to see and experience. For example, instead of saying, "I don't want to feel stress," or even, "I've stopped feeling stress," use, "I'm feeling peace". Sometimes your mind doesn't register the negative, and it just hears the concept, "stress", which is what you're trying to avoid.

Once you've found your affirmations, here are some fun ways to introduce positive affirmations into your life:

**Repetition:** Probably the most popular way to harness the power of affirmations is to simply repeat them to yourself on a regular basis. Repeating them mentally several times in the morning or evening can be effective; repeating them aloud is even more effective because you hear them more clearly that way.

**Do-It-Yourself Recording:** You can make a recording of yourself repeating positive affirmations and play it as you drive, get reading in the morning, or do other activities. Talk in a calm voice, maybe play your favorite soothing music in the background, and you have a recording tailor-made especially for your needs!

**On Post-Its:** A fun way to use affirmations is to put them on post-its that you place around your house (on the fridge, on the bathroom mirror, and other places you'll likely see them) to give yourself positive messages throughout the day. This technique can be effective on its own, or can be used with other affirmation techniques as a reinforcer.





## CATS

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**The CATS mission is to promote multi disciplinary expertise in the prevention and management 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.**

### FLAVORED METH CONTINUED

The appearance of "Strawberry Quick" in Greene County came less than two weeks after the Nevada Department of Public Safety issued a bulletin about flavored methamphetamine seized during a Jan 27 apartment search in Carson City.

"It seems to have progressed very quickly from west to east," Gibson says.

"Strawberry Quick," the bulletin said, "is popular among new users who snort it because the flavoring can cut down on the taste. Teenagers who have been taught meth is bad may see this flavored version as less harmful. 'Strawberry Quick' is designed for the younger crowd."

As methamphetamine's popularity has waned, drug dealers have to create new ways to market it, says Scott Burns, deputy drug czar for state, local and tribal affairs for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. The number of people 12 and older who used methamphetamine for the first time in the previous year decreased from 318,000 people in 2004 to 192,000 people in 2005, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

### CATS REFERENCE LIBRARY NEW RELEASES!

*CONTACT JULIE FOR AVAILABILITY*

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER
No More Hurt	Wendy Deaton	Hunter House Publishers
Mr. Peabody's Apples	Madonna	Callaway
Childhood It Should Not Hurt	Claire Reeves	LTI Publishing
Juvenile Sex Offender	Howard Barbaree	Guilford Press
A Mothers Touch – Surviving Mother-Daughter Sexual Abuse	Julie Brand	Trafford
When I was Little Like You	Jane Porett	Child Welfare League of America
When I Grow Up I Want To Be Like Me	Sandra Magsamen	Hanny Girl Productions

### COUNTY SPECIFIC FORENSIC INTERVIEWING TRAINING AVAILABLE

If your county or agency has 25 or more individuals that need or would like Forensic Interviewing training, we can arrange to bring the training to you. Costs to the county or agency for these trainings are based on the number of trainers and number of attendees. Materials (Forensic Interviewing notebooks) are available for \$15.00 per notebook in conjunction with a training. If you would like to discuss the option of a county or agency specific Forensic Interviewing training, please contact Julie Welch, the CATS Training Coordinator at 517-334-6060 ext. 833 or at [welchj@michigan.gov](mailto:welchj@michigan.gov).

To view a copy of the Forensic Interviewing Protocol online, please go to:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/DHS-Pub779\\_13054\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/DHS-Pub779_13054_7.pdf)