Understanding Child Sexual Abuse and the Technology Facilitated Compliant Victim

Presented by

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- Conducting a child abuse investigation is an art and not a science.
- The many techniques discussed here have been utilized by the instructor while conducting actual child abuse investigations. Nothing in this program should be considered legal advice, medical advice or operational advice. The investigator must always follow his or her own local procedures, policies and state laws.
Public Perception of Child Sexual Abuse Investigations

The stranger

Child Sexual Abuse is an Old Crime

Computers, tablets & smart phones, Apps....

- Another technique for molesters to gain access to children
- New tools
- New evidence

But it’s still the same old crime!
Child Sexual Abuse Crimes

**Child Sexual Abuse**
- Within the family

**Child Sexual Exploitation**
- Primarily outside the family
- Multiple victims
- Child pornography
- Technology facilitated crimes

– Divorce and Parentage –

During or following proceedings a child may use technology for:

- Interaction – Social networking
- Entertainment – Gaming
- Solace – Comfort or consolation during a time of distress, anxiety or sorrow – Technology Facilitated Compliant Victim
– Divorce and Parentage – Mobile App Dangers

- Banning is not the answer – Have an open discussion about mobile device boundaries and violation consequences
- No location-based Apps
- Parental permission required to download a mobile device App – A parent controls the device password
- Spyware….

www.spectorsoft.com
Remember the good old days before the Internet

Touring Cyberspace
– Traditional Web or Surface Web –

The Internet ....

- Standard browsers (Explorer, Safari...)
- World Wide Web (www)
- Usenet Newsgroups
- Internet Relay Chat (IRC)
Investigating Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation

Following the explosion of the Internet –

- Child molesters fully embraced utilizing the Internet
- A new or a different type of child molester appeared
- A new or a different type of child sexual exploitation victim appeared – the Technology Facilitated Compliant Victim

Issue – Mixed Definitions of Terms

What do we call a young person who has been sexually abused as the result of a technology facilitated crime –?

- Seduced?
- Manipulated?
- For this presentation I have identified this victim as a Compliant Victim and will explain the unique circumstances of this type of child abuse.....
## Issue – Mixed Definitions of Terms

### Public perception of Child Sexual Abuse
- Many people have a mental image of a person age 12 or younger as the victim

What do we call a 12 year old female – ?
- Child ?
- Juvenile ?
- Minor ?
- Adolescent ?
- Tween ?

### Legal definition of Child and Minor
- Varies statute to statute
- Varies state to state
- Varies country to country

### Legal definition of Age of Consent
- Varies state to state
- Varies country to country
Teens / Tweens – Generally

- Lack good decision making abilities
- Often use poor judgment
- Tend to be impulsive
- Sometimes rebellious
- Working on developing their own unique social needs
- Very susceptible to peer pressure

Have learned to manipulate their environment to get what they want
- Possess a normal sexual curiosity
- Consider themselves invincible – Live fearless lives
What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ???

*Teens or tweens who cooperate and/or participate in their own victimization*

- The victim has developed intense and passionate feelings for the molester
- Even so, they are legally unable to give consent
- Child sexual exploitation

What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

- Some victims become compliant because of the molester’s skill in making the victim see the relationship as a real one that is based on love and not fantasy
- The victim truly believes that the molester cares about them....
What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

Issues

- The public idealistically prefers to perceive children as being pure and innocent rather than human beings with human needs....

- Because of their extensive communication it is very misleading to characterize the molester of this type of victim as a “stranger”
What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean??? (cont.)

Issues – continued

• Difficult for the Judge / Jury to understand or be sympathetic to this perceived type of non-innocent victimization….

What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean??? (cont.)

Issues – continued

• Important for the prosecutor to clarify the grooming process of the victim with a MDT Therapist – Expert witness in order to explain the victim’s complicity with the molester
Grooming the Compliant Victim

The ADULT MOLESTER, while often pretending to be somewhat younger, trolls the Internet seeking a victim who is troubled or has low self esteem

- The selected victim is commonly a female
- He frequently identifies his potential victim from postings/photos on social network sites....
## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He spends an enormous amount of time talking with the victim initially online and then later utilizing a cell phone.
- He appears kind, loving and tender.
- He is an exceptional listener and then shares personal things such as “I’ve never told anyone this before but ….”
- He is constantly assessing her to make sure that he is accepted.

## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He never shows anger or displeasure.
- He makes himself appear trustworthy.
Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He compliments her repeatedly, especially in those areas of low self esteem
- He makes her believe that the universe revolves around her
- He encourages her to create a private email account and/or point of contact....

Forensic Interview – Specific Questions for the Technology Facilitated Compliant Victim

- Do you have an online profile?
- Do you have more than...(FIVE)?
- Where are they posted....
Grooming the Compliant Victim

- As part of the manipulation he gives her the illusion of control
- He unexpectedly sends her e-cards or gifts

Grooming the Compliant Victim

- The victim comes to believe that he is wonderful and truly cares about her
- He becomes her best friend – bff
- He attempts to isolate her from others
- He belittles her home life, parents, teachers and all of their rules
- He tells her that if she lived with him – she could stay out late, smoke, drink or use drugs
Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He constantly tells her that she is beautiful and he loves her
- He slowly becomes sexual professing it as a true expression of their love
- He initially encourages her “to just talk with him” about sex
- He then sends her explicit photos and videos, as validation, of older men and younger girls “hooking up” ....

Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He disrobes via the web-cam or in photos so she can see the “real him”
- He encourages her to disrobe for him in photos or via web-cam so he can see “how beautiful she is”
Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He encourages her to meet him at a hotel – so they can finally be together alone
- In love, they finally meet for a “date” which includes sex....

Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He almost never uses threats, force, coercion or abduction to sexually abuse the victim
- The “seduced” victim has actively cooperated with the molester and has become compliant in her own abuse
Compliant Victims Rarely Disclose their Abuse

– Disclosure Process –

Child Sexual Abuse
- As the result of friends, TV or a school program

Technology Facilitated Compliant Victim
Child Sexual Exploitation
- Accident

Compliant Victim – MDT Investigation

- As a result of the grooming process the victim does not perceive herself as a victim and will, in most cases, refuse to go along with the criminal investigation
- Some victims will continue to deny victimization even when shown seized images of themselves
- Some victims will continue to deny acts of victimization that the molester has confessed to the police
Compliant Victim – MDT Investigation

- If the victim finally discloses to a forensic interviewer she will often minimize her behavior and maximize the offender’s behavior
- The victim may relate that drugs or alcohol were provided, in order to explain her complicity

Compliant Victim – Conclusion

- Some people may object to the use of the term compliant victim, especially those individuals who cannot comprehend that a teen or tween can be willingly compliant in their own sexual abuse
- However, this unique type of sexual victimization must be candidly or frankly addressed
Typical Technology Facilitated Compliant Victim

- Naturally curious and trusting
- Easily led by adults
- Need for love, attention and affection
- Often from a single parent family
- “Nothing is wrong, I’m not a victim”

– Divorce and Parentage – Virtual Parenting Time

Technology Dangers that are connected with real time and selfie devices that are used for virtual parenting time….

- Have an open discussion about mobile device / computer boundaries and violation consequences
– Case Illustrations –
Technology Facilitated Child Molesters

MAKING A COMPLAINT – NCMEC
www.missingkids.com
1-800-843-5678

NATIONAL CENTER FOR
MISSING & EXPLOITED
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Thank you!

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