

EDWARD MEIER

DECISION RELIABILITY OF M.M.'s
STATEMENT'S FOLLOWING MICHAELS HEARING

Frances A. McGrogan, J.S.C.

Dated: January 3, 2017

Gurbir S. Grewal, Bergen County Prosecutor; Kristin DeMarco, Assistant Prosecutor, appearing; Brian Neary, Esquire, appearing on behalf of the defendant, Edward Meier.

Frances A. McGrogan, J.S.C.

This decision incorporates the procedural history and alleged facts outlined in the Court's February 4, 2016, decision. The Court conducted a Michaels hearing on December 2 and December 9, 2016.

Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Detective Brad Waudby ("Waudby") and Joseph Del Russo, J.D. testified on behalf of the State. Professor Del Russo was qualified as a R. 702 expert in best practice recommendations regarding law enforcement interviews of alleged victims of sexual abuse.

Gerald Cooke, Ph.D. was qualified as a R. 702 expert in forensic psychology with a subspecialty in the evaluation of child

Joseph A. Del Russo



Joseph A. Del Russo is an attorney and former Chief Assistant Prosecutor with the Passaic County Prosecutor's office, in Paterson, New Jersey. Beginning in 1992, he supervised a team of attorneys, detectives, social workers, paralegals and nurses investigating sexual assault, family violence and child maltreatment in the prosecutor's Special Victims Unit and Megan's Law Unit.

Joseph A. Del Russo is an attorney, professor and former Chief Assistant Prosecutor with the Passaic County Prosecutor's office, in Paterson, New Jersey. Beginning in 1992, he supervised a team of attorneys, detectives, social workers, paralegals and nurses investigating sexual assault, family violence and child maltreatment in the prosecutor's Special Victims Unit and Megan's Law Unit.

Del Russo is a graduate of Rutgers University School of Law. He was also a founding member and Past-President of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children – New Jersey (APSAC-NJ).

Del Russo was a past member of the protection subcommittee of the New Jersey Governor's Task force on Child Abuse and Neglect. He also was invited to participate on the Attorney General's working group where he helped draft the Sex Offender Risk Assessment scale used in Megan's Law cases.

Del Russo also participated in the Attorney General's Working Group on the Electronic Recordation of Custodial Interrogations which provided input to the New Jersey Supreme Court's Special Committee on the Electronic Recordation of Custodial Interrogations. The final product led to the Supreme Court requirement on recording interrogations and the current Attorney General Directive 2006-4.

Del Russo directed the 2002 Passaic County Prosecutor's inquiry into decades of alleged clergy sexual misconduct. This and similar investigations statewide were part of an overall response that led to the Memorandum of Understanding—an agreement between all five Catholic dioceses in the State of New Jersey, the County Prosecutors and the State Attorney General.

Del Russo presently is a professor within the Montclair State University's Robert D. McCormick Center for Child Advocacy and Policy. He was among the original founding faculty in 2000. He teaches courses relating to prevention, investigation and prosecution of sexual violence and child maltreatment cases in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Moreover, Del Russo was the primary designer of Montclair State University's first online program in 2008. The McCormick Center now offers advocacy courses for undergraduates, post-baccalaureate, and graduate students, both online and on-campus.

Among Del Russo's recent accomplishments was the design of a dedicated web site to train educators on mandatory reporting of child maltreatment. The web site began training teachers in 2013 within Passaic County, New Jersey on mandatory reporting of child abuse. He collaborated on a similar project for the New Jersey Department of Children and Families that launched April 2018. This mandatory reporting web site is available to institutions state-wide.

Del Russo is a founder and Co-Director of the Child First-Finding Words program in New Jersey, which trains detectives, municipal police, child protection workers, mental health professionals, physicians, sexual assault nurse examiners, and other family violence professionals on a protocol for conducting forensically defensible interviews. Del Russo also drafts curricula and is a trainer in New Jersey's Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) since 2005.

Del Russo's work has been acknowledged by his peers at the 2003 New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Awards (CAP) in Princeton, New Jersey and at the 2000 American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) Colloquium in Chicago, Illinois where he was received as a member of the President's Honor Roll.

Del Russo works collaboratively with other experts in the field as a consultant who provides crisis management, case file review, investigative support, fact findings, and recommendations related to sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, bullying, child protection and sexual exploitation cases.

Del Russo has also published articles involving legal issues in abuse and neglect. He testifies as an expert witness and has collaborated on academic research within the field of forensic interviewing. He has conducted lectures, workshops and professional trainings on child maltreatment and sexual violence through the United States.

Professor Del Russo maintains an office in Clifton, New Jersey at the where he practices law part time.

JOSEPH A. DEL RUSSO, JD.
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862-234-5050
jdelrusso@outlook.com/www.jdelrusso.com

Prior Experience:

PROFESSOR
Montclair State University
Department of Social Work and Child Advocacy
Robert D. McCormick Center for Child Advocacy and Policy
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Montclair, New Jersey 07043

Prior Experience:

CHIEF ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR
Special Victims Unit
April 1992 to December 2013
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
Paterson, New Jersey 07505

ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR
April 1989 to April 1992
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
Trial Prosecutor: Felony Prosecution Unit

ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR
September 1988 to April 1989
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
Prosecuted Juvenile Delinquency Complaints in Family Court.

LAW CLERK to Honorable Sylvan G. Rothenberg, J.S.C.
September 1987 to September 1988
Superior Court, Family Part
Paterson, New Jersey 07505

Education:

Legal

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
Juris Doctor Degree, May 1987

Undergraduate

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, May 1983

**Academic
Appointments:**

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
Little Falls, New Jersey
Adjunct Professor, Summer 2000 to Present.

BERKELEY COLLEGE
West Paterson, New Jersey
Adjunct Professor, Autumn 1993 to 1999.

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK**

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Adjunct Professor, Summer 1993 to 1998.

Certifications:

**DIVISION CRIMINAL JUSTICE-POLICE TRAINING
COMM'N**

Trenton, New Jersey

Certified Instructor

American Prosecutor's Research Institute

Certified Interviewer - Child Sexual Abuse Investigative Interviews.

Appointments:

2000-2001

President

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children- New Jersey

1995 to 2002

Board of Directors

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children- New Jersey

December 1995

Attorney General-State of New Jersey

Subcommittee on Development of Protocol for Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Community Notification Pursuant to Megan's Laws.

August 1995

Attorney General-State of New Jersey Subcommittee on Development of Megan's Law Risk Assessment Scale.

**Professional
Memberships:**

Co-Director, *Child First/Finding Words-New Jersey*,
Zero Abuse Project

Forensic Interview Training Project

New Jersey Task Force on Abuse and Neglect- Protection
Subcommittee (Past)

Founding Member: American Professional Society on the Abuse of
Children (APSAC-NJ) -New Jersey Chapter (Past)

Publications:

Del Russo, Joseph

*Strategies for the Effective Utilization of the Child Sexual Abuse
Accommodation Syndrome in the Criminal Sexual Abuse Trial*

NJ Advisor-APSAC Spring 2000

Witt, Del Russo, Oppenheim, and Ferguson
Sex Offender Risk Assessment and the Law
The Journal of Psychiatry and the Law - Fall 1996

Honors:

New Jersey Child Abuse Prevention Award 2003
Princeton, NJ
NJ Child Abuse Prevention

President's Honor Roll- Chicago, IL-- National Colloquium 2000
American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

FORENSIC INTERVIEWING NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

JUNE 2016

Global Child Advocacy Issues (with Dr. Betsy Goulet, University of Illinois)

Professional and System Responses to Child Maltreatment

(with Dr. Betsy Goulet, University of Illinois)

2016 Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Summit

Atlantic City, New Jersey

JUNE 2014

Presenting Graphic Images of Sexual Abuse to Children [in Forensic Interviews]

Where There are Recorded Images of Their Victimization

When Words Matter - Emerging Issues in Forensic Interviewing

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD with Anthony V. D'Urso- Supervising Psychologist, The Audrey Hepburn Children's House at Hackensack University Medical Center

Baltimore, Maryland

OCTOBER 2012

Why Did You Show the Child Naked Pictures?" A Mini-Trial on the

Usage of Anatomical Diagrams

When Words Matter - Emerging Issues in Forensic Interviewing

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD with Stephanie Smith, Director, Southern Regional Center of the National Child Protection Training Center

St. Paul, Minnesota

JUNE 2008

Professional Roundtable: Children's Advocacy Centers

Western Regional Child Advocacy Centers

Honolulu, Hawaii

AUGUST 2007

Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome and the Process of Disclosure: Data from the Front Line

Beyond Finding Words - Emerging Issues in Forensic Interviewing

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD, with Jason Dickinson, Ph.D. Montclair State University Department of Psychology, Anthony V. D'Urso- Supervising Psychologist, The Audrey Hepburn Children's House at Hackensack University Medical Center

Atlantic City, NJ

MARCH 2006

Anatomical Dolls in the Courtroom: The Research and Cross-Examination

Beyond Finding Words - Emerging Issues in Forensic Interviewing

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Tunica, Mississippi

SELECTED FORENSIC INTERVIEWING PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

JUNE 2021

TITLE IX CONSIDERATIONS: BACK TO CAMPUS

Trauma Informed Interviews of Title IX Complainants

National Virtual Training

JUNE 2021

Child Abuse Investigations in a Nutshell

Passaic County Bar Association

Virtual Training

December 2020

*OMG-What Were You Thinking?? Criminal Responsibility and
the Neuroscience of Adolescent Brain Development*

Passaic County Bar Association

Virtual Training

MAY 2020

The Current State of Title IX

Title IX Training for Colleges and University Staff

New Jersey State Bar Association and the YWCA of Hackensack

National Virtual Training

APRIL 2019

Conducting Campus Investigations of Sexual Violence

Title IX Training for Colleges and University Staff in Bergen County

New Jersey State Bar Association and the YWCA of Hackensack

Hackensack, NJ

FEBRUARY 2019

What You Need to Know: Sexual Assault & Sexual Harassment in the #metoo era.

The Justice Robert L. Clifford American Inn of Court

Passaic County Bar Association

Paterson, NJ

NOVEMBER 2018

The Impact of Adult Language Choices on Children's Responses

New Jersey Attorney Generals' Advocacy Institute

Hughes Justice Complex, Trenton, NJ

APRIL 2017

Memory and Suggestibility: The Impact of Adult Behavior on Children's Recollections

New Jersey Attorney Generals' Advocacy Institute

New Brunswick, NJ

MAY 2016

Memory and Suggestibility: Forensically Defensible Communication with Children for Mental Health Professionals

Wynona's House Children's Advocacy Center
Newark, New Jersey

JUNE 2015

*Investigative Interviewing of Children: The Intersection of Practice, Policy, and Research
Research Updates on the ChildFirst Forensic Interviewing Protocol*

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD with Anthony V. D'Urso- Supervising Psychologist, The Audrey Hepburn Children's House at Hackensack University Medical Center
Robert D. McCormick Center for Child Advocacy and Policy Tenth Annual National Conference
Montclair, New Jersey

MAY 2015

Forensic Interviewing for the Non-Forensic Interviewer

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator's Association of New Jersey
Princeton, New Jersey

SEPTEMBER 2014

MDT Approach to Recantation of Children's Statements of Sexual Abuse: Best Practices

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator's Association of New Jersey
Princeton, New Jersey

APRIL 2014

Beware the JubJub Bird: Avoiding Confusion When Talking to Children— Children, Language, and the Legal Process.

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Wynona's House Children's Advocacy Center Annual Conference on Child Maltreatment
Victoria Room- New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)
Newark, NJ

NOVEMBER 2010

Working with Children in Litigation

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
17th Annual Statewide Convention - New Jersey Paralegals Association
New Brunswick, NJ

NOVEMBER 2006

Workshop Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Strong Families Within Strong Communities: A Multifaceted Approach to Empowerment
Conference – NJ Task Force on Child Abuse & Neglect
Contact: Martin Finkel and Kevin Ryan
Trenton, NJ

JUNE 2006

Interviewing Child Witnesses

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Continuing Legal Education Program – Office of the Somerset County Prosecutor

Contact: Wayne Forrest

Somerville, NJ

MAY 2006

Forensically Defensible Investigations Seminar

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Office of the Cumberland County Prosecutor

Contact: Ronald J. Casella

Bridgeton, NJ

JUNE 2005

Seminar – Understanding the Strengths and Vulnerabilities of Child Witnesses

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

NJ Attorney General's Advocacy Institute

Contact: Andrew Rossner

Trenton, NJ

MARCH 2005

Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Sociology of the Family – Essex County College

Contact: Barbara Morris

Newark, NJ

SEPTEMBER 2004

Workshop Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

A Vision for Children: Strengthening Families and Communities – New Jersey Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

Contact: Donna Pincavage

Trenton, NJ

APRIL 2004

Prosecuting Child Abuse/Sexual Assault Cases

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Boardwalk Seminar - Association of Trial Lawyers of America

Contact: Jayne Wickham

Trenton, NJ

JUNE 2003

Finding Words-New Jersey: Anxiety Free Strategies for Interviewing Kids

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Child Sexual Abuse: Building Skills to Meet the Challenge – APSAC-NJ

Contact: Christine Baker

Morristown, NJ

APRIL 2003

Child Maltreatment: Strength in Partnerships – Education on Child Abuse for Professionals who Work with Children

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

3rd Annual Child Protection and Safety Center – St. Joseph's Hospital

Paterson, NJ

APRIL 2003

Internet Safety

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

DYFS Annual Child Abuse Prevention Luncheon Conference

Contact: Frank Gonzalez and Lizette Mateo

Trenton, NJ

APRIL 2002

Responding to Child Maltreatment: A Multidisciplinary Approach – A Conference for Professionals who Work with Children

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

2nd Annual Child Protection and Safety Center – St. Joseph's Hospital

Paterson, NJ

APRIL 2002

Workshop Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Justice Studies Conference – Montclair State University

Contact: David Dodd

Montclair, NJ

MARCH 2001

Workshop Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

In-Service Day – Great Falls Academy

Contact: Michael Leonessa and John Guiliano

Paterson, NJ

JUNE 2001

Interviewing Child Victims

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

A Multidisciplinary Response to the Prevention, Investigation, Prosecution and Treatment of Child Abuse – Wynona M. Lipman Child Advocacy Center at Montclair State University

Contact: Helen Archontou

Montclair, NJ

AUGUST 2000

Taint Hearings

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute's Child Abuse Coalition Meeting

Contact: Diane Langner

Langhorne, PA

JUNE 2000

Co-workshop Presenter - Joseph A. Del Russo, JD and Rachel Heath

Multidisciplinary Team Training – DYFS

Contact: Catherine Hibberd
Trenton, NJ

APRIL 2000

Taint Hearings

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute's Battle of the Experts Course

Contact: Diane Langner

Langhorne, PA

DECEMBER 1999

Workshop Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Juvenile Sex Offender Training – Passaic County Children's Interagency Coordinating Council

Contact: Jenny Fletcher and Mari Lou Parkinson

Paterson, NJ

FEBRUARY 1999

Megan's Law

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

New Jersey State Identification Association

New Milford, NJ

NOVEMBER 1998

Child Abuse Presentation

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Passaic Police Academy

Contact: Carmeta Vidal Parkes

Wayne, NJ

MARCH 1998

Workshop Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Joint Forces in the Fight Against Child Abuse and Sexual Abuse Conference – Hudson County

Prosecutor's Office and Christ Hospital Services to Victims of Sexual Assault

Jersey City, NJ

APRIL 1997

Notification Laws and Sexually Offending Youth: Controversies and Issues

Panel Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

The 13th Annual Conference of the National Adolescent Perpetrator Network

Cherry Hill, NJ

OCTOBER 1996

*Assessment, Treatment and Supervision of Sex Offenders – The Case for Cooperation
Between Clinicians and Probation Officers*

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

New Jersey Network for the Treatment of Sex Offenders

Trenton, NJ

AUGUST 1996

Panel Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
1st Annual APSAC-NJ Conference
Montclair, NJ

JULY 1996
Educational Forum
Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Office of the Prosecutor – Morris County
Morristown, NJ

MAY 1996
Use of the Supplemental Plea Agreement with Sex Offender Specific Evaluation
Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Probation Sex Offender Task Force, Administrative Office of the Courts
Trenton, NJ

MAY 1996
Building Multi-Disciplinary Cooperation
Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children – NJ First Annual Conference
New Brunswick, NJ

APRIL 1996
Current Controversies of Megan's Law
Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Hidden Victims, Hidden Crimes: Uncovering the Secrecy – Fourth Annual Passaic County Multi-Disciplinary Team Conference
Wayne, NJ

APRIL 1996
The Expert's Use of the Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome
Co-Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Hidden Victims, Hidden Crimes: Uncovering the Secrecy – Fourth Annual Passaic County Multi-Disciplinary Team Conference
Wayne, NJ

FEBRUARY 1996
Megan's Law
Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association
Contact: Debra Bradley
Trenton, NJ

FEBRUARY 1996
Guest Speaker – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
NJ Region Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Contact: Joan Perna
Asbury, NJ

JANURARY 1996
Megan's Law and Education

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association
Monroe, NJ

NOVEMBER 1995

Plea Bargaining the Child Abuse Case

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Child Abuse Prosecutions – Office of the Attorney General, Division of Criminal Justice

Trenton, NJ

NOVEMBER 1995

The Development and Application of the Registrant Risk Assessment Scale

Co-Presenter - Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

New Jersey Network for the Treatment of Sex Offenders

Trenton, NJ

SEPTEMBER 1995

Disclosures of New Offenses in Treatment: Legal and Ethical Issues Panel

Panel Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

New Jersey Network for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders

Contact: Ken Singer

New Brunswick, NJ

APRIL 1995

Legal Aspects of Child Sexual Abuse: Confidentiality, Victim/Counselor Privilege, and the Hearsay Exception

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Working Together in the Investigation and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse – The 3rd Annual

Passaic County Multi-Disciplinary Team Conference

Contact: Maryclaire Balko

Paterson, NJ

APRIL 1995

What Do You Do with a Juvenile Sex Offender? A Community Systems Approach

Panel Moderator – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Working Together in the Investigation and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse – The 3rd Annual

Passaic County Multi-Disciplinary Team Conference

Paterson, NJ

NOVEMBER 1994

Pediatric Grand Rounds

Joseph A. Del Russo, JD

Multi-Disciplinary Team Approach to Child Sexual Abuse – St Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center

Contact: Michelle Kavulich

Paterson, NJ

APRIL 1994

Roles of Primary MDT Disciplines

Panel Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Current Strategies in the Investigation and Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse - The 2nd Annual
Passaic County Multi-Disciplinary Team Conference
Contact: Maryclaire Balko
Paterson, NJ

MARCH 1994
Date Rape
Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Passaic County Community College
Paterson, NJ

NOVEMBER 1993
Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Child Abuse
Co-Presenter – Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Barnert Memorial Hospital – Continuing Medical Education Workshop for Doctors and Medical
Support Staff
Paterson, NJ

FEBRUARY 1993
Conducting Successful Joint Investigations
Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
A Community Approach to Child Sexual Abuse in the 90's – Passaic County Multi-Disciplinary
Team Conference
Contact: Maryclaire Appio
Totowa, NJ

MAY 1993
College Acquaintance Rape Radio Show
Joseph A. Del Russo, JD
Women's Center – The William Paterson College of New Jersey
Contact: Meryle Mahrer Kaplan
Wayne, NJ

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING: WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

February 26-28, 2020
Orlando, Florida
Zero Abuse Project National Summit
Emerging Issues in the Field of Forensic Interviewing, Ethics.

May 13 - 15, 2019
Princeton, New Jersey
Child First, Expanded Forensic Interview Process
National training program for Child First/Finding Words faculty on multisession forensic
interviewing protocol for children who may have been maltreated.

February 28, 2018

Orlando, Florida

Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Summit

Various national workshops in child protection services, law enforcement, forensic interviewing, legal, healthcare, education, faith communities, victim advocacy, and youth serving organizations to advance their skills with best practices from their respective fields.

June 22, 2016

Atlantic City, New Jersey

Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Summit

Various national workshops in child protection services, law enforcement, forensic interviewing, legal, healthcare, education, faith communities, victim advocacy, and youth serving organizations to advance their skills with best practices from their respective fields.

June 18, 2015

Charleston, WV

Research Updates – Chris Newlin, Executive Director at the National Children’s Advocacy Center

False Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse and Investigator Bias – Amy Russell

Research on Evaluator Bias – Mark Everson

MDT Approach to Recantation – Lori Fluegel, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Jackson County, MO & Jerri Sites, Child Advocacy Center Program Director at Rainbow House

Extended Evaluations in Child Sexual Abuse – Clifton Hudson, PhD

June 17, 2015

Charleston, WV

Effectively Engaging with Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse – Chris Anderson, Executive Director, MaleSurvivor

Update on NCA Standards – Teresa Huizar, Executive Director, National Children’s Alliance

ACES Presentation – Dr. Sharon Istfan, Children’s Medicine Center

Stop Checking the Box, Working with Adolescent Sex Offenders Before During and After the Forensic Interview – Victor Vieth, National Child Protection Training Center

June 16, 2015

Charleston, WV

The Child Forensic Interview as Part of An Evaluation of Allegations During Parenting Disputes – Mindy Mitnick, Licensed Psychologist, Uptown Mental Health Center

Interviewing the Reluctant Child – Rita Farrell, Forensic Interview Specialist, Gundersen NCPTC

Female Offenders in Child Abuse – Amy Russell

Withholding Medical Care for Religious Grounds, Difficulties This May Pose in Our Forensic Interviews – Victor Vieth, National Child Protection Training Center

June 5, 2014

Baltimore, MD

CAC Accreditation: Evolving Standards for Forensic Interviewing – Teresa Huizar, Executive Director, National Children's Alliance

Why Prosecutors Need to Observe the Forensic Interview – Stephanie Smith, JD, Southern Region Director, Gundersen NCPTC

Victim Advocates in Children's Advocacy Centers – Beth Olson, MSW, Executive Director, First Witness Child Advocacy Center

June 4, 2014

Baltimore, MD

Top Ten Case Updates – Stephanie Smith, JD, Southern Region Director, Gundersen NCPTC and Mary-Ann Burkhart, JD

It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time: Ethics and the Forensic Interview Process – Victor Vieth, JD, Executive Director Emeritus, Gundersen NCPTC

Using TF-CBT for Spiritual Injuries – Don Walker, JD

LGBTQ – Amy Russell, MEd, JD, NCC, Executive Director, Gundersen NCPTC

Research Update – Chris Newlin, MS, LPC, Executive Director, National Children's Advocacy Center

June 3, 2014

Baltimore, MD

ChildFirst Protocol Update – Amy Russell, MEd, JD, NCC, Executive Director, Gundersen NCPTC and Vera Doukmajian

Shadow Children – Rita Farrell, Forensic Interview Specialist, Gundersen NCPTC

Because the Bible Tells Me So – Victor Vieth, JD, Executive Director Emeritus, Gundersen NCPTC

June 2, 2014

Baltimore, MD

Polyvictimization: Interviewing About Multiple Forms of Abuse – Mindy Mitnick, Licensed Psychologist, Uptown Medical Health Center

First Responder Interviews – Rita Farrell, Forensic Interview Specialist, Gundersen NCPTC and Julie Kenniston, MSW,LSW, Butler County Children Services

Offender Typologies – Alison Feigh, MS, Jacob Wetterling Resources Center, a program of Gundersen NCPTC

Extended Evaluations and Interviewing Reluctant Children – Kathleen Coulborn Faller, PhD

August 1, 2013
Columbus, OH

Working with Survivors at our Child Advocacy Centers – Howard R. Fradkin, A Center for Psychotherapy and Growth

Animals in Our Interviews and Courtroom – Danielle Hughes, P.A.W.S.

Expert Testimony: Staying Between the Lane Markers to Avoid Crashes – Stephanie Smith, National Child Protection Training Center

July 31, 2013
Columbus, OH

Child Interviewing: Update on Research and Practice – Tom Lyon, University Southern California Law

Chaplains for Children: Twelve Potential Roles for a Theologian on the MDT – Victor Vieth, National Child Protection Training Center

Child Abuse Allegations in Custody Cases – Connilee Christie, Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis and Matt Lindemeyer, Gasconade County Sheriff's Department

Peer Review – Andrea Richey, Cincinnati Children Hospital Medical Center Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children

ACEs Research – Denyse Olson-Dorff, Gundersen Health System

July 30, 2013
Columbus, OH

Minimizing Miscommunication in Child Forensic Interviews – Julie Kenniston, Butler County Children's Services

Forensic Interviewing Panel – Jennifer Anderson, CornerHouse Interagency Child Abuse Evaluation and Training Center; Andra Chamberlain, National Children's Advocacy Center; Julie Kenniston, Butler County Children's Services; Amy Russell, National Child Protection Training Center; Heather Stewart, Salt Lake County Children's Justice Center; and Viola Vaughn Eden, President, American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

Ethics of Working Within an MDT – Amy Russell, National Child Protection Training Center

What a Medical Exam Can and Can't Tell You – Ann Budzak-Garza, Gundersen Health System

July 29, 2013

Columbus, OH

Presenting Evidence in Forensic Interviews – Catherine Connell, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Martha Finnegan, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Gaining Cooperation and the Non-Supportive Caregiver – Stephanie Smith, National Child Protection Training Center and Susanne Walters, National Child Protection Training Center

Defending My Interview in Court – Rita Farrell, National Child Protection Training Center

Interviewing Juvenile Suspects: Are Interrogations Reliable? – Mindy Mitnick, Licensed Psychologist and Victor Vieth, National Child Protection Training Center

October 12, 2012

Saint Paul, MN

Resent Research Affecting Forensic Interviews, Investigations and Prosecutions – Chris Newlin, Executive Director, National Children's Advocacy Center

Public Defender on the MDT – It Works for Us! – Leslie E. Beiers, Senior Assistant St. Louis County Attorney and Laura Zimm, Assistant Public Defender, Duluth

Monitoring Team Etiquette, Trials and Tribulations: We Can Do It Better and With Feeling! – Michael Schiltz, Training Coordinator/Trainer First Witness Child Abuse Resource Center

Narrative Practice: Does It Work with All Protocols? – Jennifer Anderson, Associate Director, CornerHouse and Wendy Anderson, Research Assistant, University of Minnesota

October 11, 2012

Saint Paul, MN

Interviewing Native Children: Incorporating the Historical Trauma Model in the Forensic Interview – Kathryn England-Aytes, California State University and Pauline Lucero-Esquivel, Corazon Training and Consulting

The Top Ten: A Review of Case Law Impacting Forensic Interviewers and MDTs – Tom Leclair, Children's Law Office, University of South Carolina

In the Neighborhood: Addressing the Sexual Abuse & Sexual Exploitation of Children in Strip Clubs – Victor Vieth, Director, National Child Protection Training Center

Interviewing Children with Disabilities – Robert Geffner, PhD,, Institute of Violence, Abuse & Trauma

Interviewing an Autistic Child – Anne Lukas-Miller, Forensic Interviewer, CornerHouse

October 10, 2012

Saint Paul, MN

Conducting the Forensic Interview with an Eye Toward the Medical Examination Room – Mark Hudson, MD, Midwest Children's Resources Center

Overcoming Difficult Situations in Forensic Interviews...What Questions Do I Ask Next? – Rita Johnson, Forensic Interview Specialist, National Child Protection Training Center

To Use or Not to Use: Evidence in the Forensic Interview – Amy Russell, Deputy Director, National Child Protection Training Center

Playing Nice in the Sandbox: Developing Effective MDTs – Rita Johnson, Forensic Interview Specialist, National Child Protection Training Center and Mike Johnson, Youth Protection Director, Boy Scouts of America

October 9, 2012

Saint Paul, MN

Through the Mind of the Sex Offender: Conducting Forensic Interviews with an Understanding of Sex Offender Typologies – Mike Johnson, Youth Protector Director, Boy Scouts of America

The Impact of the Internet Pornography on Child Development – Mindy Mitnick, EdM, MA, Licensed Psychologist

"Priming" Children's Disclosures: Suggestibility in Forensic Interviews – Amy Russell, Deputy Director, National Child Protection Training Center

September 22, 2011

Chicago, IL

Recent Research Affecting Forensic Interviews, Investigations and Prosecutions – Chris Newlin, Executive Director, National Children's Advocacy Center

Picture This: The Disconnect Between Research and Practice in the Usage of Anatomical Diagrams – Amy Russell, Deputy Director, National Child Protection Training Center and Rita Johnson, Forensic Interview Specialist, National Child Protection Training Center

An Update from the Field: The Changing Face of Forensic Interviewing in the United States – Linda Logan, Executive Director, Native American Children's Alliance; Angie Scott-Dixon, Assistant Professor, Winona State University; Rita Johnson, Forensic Interview Specialist, National Child Protection Training Center; Amy Russell, Deputy Director, National Child Protection Training Center; and Victor Vieth, Director, National Child Protection Training Center

September 21, 2011

Chicago, IL

The Effects of Competency Assessment and Oath Taking Within the Forensic Interview Process: New Data and Food for Thought – Allison Foster, Mental Health Director, Assessment and Resource Center

Conducting Forensic Interviews in an Age of Technology – Stephanie Smith, Southern Regional Director, National Child Protection Training Center

Testifying in Tribal Court – Anne McKeig, Hennepin County District Court, Minnesota

Working with Native American Communities – Barbara Bettelyoun, PhD, President, Buffalo Star People; Enrolled Member of the Rosebud Sioux Nation; Doctor of Child Clinical Psychology; Board Member, Native American Children's Alliance; Former CornerHouse Forensic Interviewer

"It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time": Ethics and the Forensic Interview Process – Stephen Sedensky, State's Attorney, Danbury, Connecticut and Victor Vieth, Director, National Child Protection Training Center

When a Child Takes it Back: Successfully Prosecuting a Case in Which the Child Recants – Mary-Ann Burkhart, State's Attorney, Annapolis, Maryland

Multi-Session Forensic Interviews: When Kids Can't Just Sit Still, Speak Clearly, and Tell Everything They Know – Anne Lukas Miller, Forensic Interviewer, CornerHouse

Talking with Teens: Is That in My Job Description? – Rita Johnson, Forensic Interview Specialist, National Child Protection Training Center

Whose Side Are You On? Objectivity and Bias in Child Sexual Abuse Investigations – Mark Evans, PhD, Director, Program Childhood Trauma and Treatment, University of North Carolina

What We All Agree On: An Overview of the Similarities of Interviewing Protocols and Practices – Amy Russell, Deputy Director, National Child Protection Training Center

September 20, 2011

Chicago, IL

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Talking with Teens: Is That in My Job Description? – Rita Johnson, Forensic Specialist, National Child Protection Training Center

Whose Side Are You On? Objectivity and Bias in Child Abuse Sexual Abuse Investigations – Mark Everson, PhD, Director of the Program on Childhood Trauma and Treatment, University of North Carolina

What We All Agree On: An Overview of the Similarities of Interviewing Protocols and Practices – Amy Russell – Deputy Director at the National Child Protection Training Center

September 19, 2011

Chicago, IL

Peer Review with an Eye Toward Corroboration (Part One and Part Two) – Mike Johnson, Youth Protection Director, Boy Scouts of America and Victor Vieth, Director, National Child Protection Training Center

Is it Abuse or “Alienation?” Interviewing Children When Parental Alienation Is Suspected – Mindy F. Mitnick, EdM, MA, Licensed Psychologist

When a Parent Sues the CAC: Tips for Forensic Interviewers and Children’s Advocacy Centers Facing Litigation – Andrew Agatston, JD, Author of “The Legal Eagles Guide for Children’s Advocacy Centers” DATE: September 19, 2011

Peer Review with an Eye Toward Corroboration (Parts One and Two)

Mike Johnson, Youth Protection Director, Boy Scouts of America and Victor Vieth, Director, National Child Protection Training Center

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Talking with Teens: Is That in My Job Description?- Rita Johnson, Forensic Interview Specialist, National Child Protection Training Center

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Conducting Forensic Interviews in an Age of Technology - Stephanie Smith, Southern Regional Director, National Child Protection Training Center

July 15, 2010

Savannah, GA

When the Victim is on Film: Understanding the Dynamics of Child Pornography and its Impact on the Forensic Interview – Stephanie Smith, Southern Regional Director, National Child Protection Training Center and Victor Vieth, Director, National Child Protection Training Center

Did I Just Say That? Recognizing and Correcting Errors in Forensic Interviews – Mindy Mitnick, Licensed Psychologist, Uptown Mental Health Clinic

July 14, 2010

Savannah, GA

Psychology Maltreatment in Child Sexual Abuse – Patricia Sermabeikian, LCSW, Hackensack University Medical Center

Contemporary Forensic Child Interviewing: Evolving Consensus and Innovation over 25 Years – Mark Everson, PhD, Professor, University of North Carolina Division of Child Psychiatry

In the Shadow of Defense Counsel: Conducting Peer Review in an Age of Discovery – Amy Russell, Staff Attorney, National Child Protection Training Center and Victor Vieth, Director, National Child Protection Training Center

A Forensic Interviewer's Perspective on Digital Recording of Forensic Interviews – Rita Johnson, Forensic Interviewer, CAC Specialist, Word Systems, Inc.

Interviewing Children with Disabilities – Lori M. Brown, Director of Forensic Services, Crimes Against Children Unit, Oconee County Sheriff's Office

July 13, 2010

Savannah, GA

Recent Research Affecting Forensic Interviews, Investigations and Prosecutions – Chris Newlin, Executive Director, National Children's Advocacy Center

Effectively Incorporating Therapy Animals Before, During, and After the Forensic Interview – Allie Phillips, Vice President of Public Policy, American Humane Association

The Impact of Truth-Lie Inquiries in Courts of Law – Amy Russell, Staff Attorney, National Child Protection Training Center

Child Advocacy Series: Implementation and Expansion of Child Protection Training in Universities – Angela Scott-Dixon, JD, Assistant Professor, Winona State University

"I Have a Boy in a Box" – Corner House Research on Anatomical Dolls – Anne Lucas Miller, Child Forensic Interview Specialist, CornerHouse

July 12, 2010

Savannah, GA

Setting Course: A Proposal for a Multi-tiered Credentialing Process for Forensic Interviewers – Dr. Mike Haney (Past-President, APSAC); Hector M. Campos, Director, NACCFI; and Victor Vieth, Director, NCPTC

Interviewing a Child Witness of Violence – Amy Russell, Staff Attorney, National Child Protection Training Center

When is a Forensic Interview Unconstitutional? Child Abuse Investigations after *Greene v. Camreta* – Thomas J. Leclair, Senior Resource Attorney, Children's Law Center, University of South Carolina

The Myth of the Prosecutor Friendly Interview: Research on Forensic Interviewers Utilizing RATAAC – Anthony D-DUrso, PhD, Montclair State University

What a Difference a Decade Makes: A Celebration of the Impact of Finding Words/ChildFirst on the Field – Detective Mike Johnson and Amy Baum

March 9, 1999

Paterson, NJ

Sexual Assault Volunteer Training – Passaic County Women's Center - Sandra Hinton

June 7, 1996

Denville, NJ

Talking to Abused Children: Understanding and Being Understood – Northwest Covenant Medical Center Child Abuse Treatment Program – Gina Richardson

April 9, 1996

Trenton, NJ

Sex Offender Task Force – Conference of Chief Probation Officers – William Burrell

January 26, 1996

Trenton, NJ

Council Meeting – New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association

September 1995

New Brunswick, NJ

Legal Issues in Child Abuse and Neglect – Professor John E.B. Meyers – Governor's Task Force on Abuse and Neglect

April 21, 1995

Paterson, NJ

Sexual Exploitation of Children – Lt. William Walsh, Dallas, Texas Police Department

April 20, 1995

Paterson, NJ

The Psychobiology of Trauma: Decreasing Secondary Trauma of Child Victims – Christine Baker, PhD, Supervising Psychologist at Barnet Hospital; Mary Ellen Dupre-Burns, MA, Child Sexual Abuse Specialist at Barnet Hospital; Michelle Kavulich, MA, Child Sex Abuse Specialist at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center; MariLou Parkinson, Casework Supervisor at NJ

Division of Youth & Family Services; Albert Sanz, MD, Pediatrician at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center

From Victim to Perpetrator: An Etiology Adult Sex Offenders – Meg Kaplan, PhD, Director of New York Psychiatric Institute Sexual Behavior Clinic; Doug Martinez, MA, Northwest Covenant Healthcare, Children's Crisis Intervention Service; Ken Singer, LCSW, NJ Department of Juvenile Services, Pinelands Residential Treatment Center

November 1994

Trenton, NJ

Child Abuse Prosecutions – Office of the Attorney General – Division of Criminal Justice

April 19, 1994

Wayne, NJ

Anticipating and Meeting Untrue Defenses: Verifying and Corroborating Child Sexual Abuse – Sue Marx, Senior Attorney at the American Prosecutors Research Institute

Stress Management for Professionals Dealing with Child Sexual Abuse Cases – Anthony D'Urso, PsyD, Psychologist and Technical Assistant to the Multi-Disciplinary Team Project

Victim Recantation and Victims Requiring Special Consideration – Sue Marx, Senior Attorney at the American Prosecutors Research Institute

April 18, 1994

Wayne, NJ

Advanced Investigative Practices in Child Sexual Abuse – Detective Steven Matthews, Sex Crimes Unit, Metro Division in Washington, D.C.

Interviewing Suspects in Child Sexual Abuse Cases – Detective Steven Matthews, Sex Crimes Unit, Metro Division in Washington, D.C.

February 26, 1993

Totowa, NJ

Shattered Development: The Legacy of Child Abuse – Vanessa Gourdine, PsyD, Director of Specialized Therapy Associates in Hackensack, NJ

Cultural Issues In Child Abuse – Alma Whitford, MSW, Clinical Coordinator of Family Intervention Services; Hanan Matari, Educator and Interpreter at St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center; and Cecil Glanville, MD, Private Practice, Teaneck, NJ

February 25, 1993

Totowa, NJ

Child Sexual Abuse: Community Response to Victims and Offenders – Suzanne Sgroi, MD, Executive Director, New England Clinical Associates

Multi-Disciplinary Team Case Presentation – Renee Meiselman, DYFS; Pat Sermabekian, MSW; Alma Whitford, MSW; Fran Cruse-Woods; Mary Marban; Maryclaire Appio; & Margarita Rodriguez

Community Based Treatment for Abusers and Families – Suzanne Sgroi, MD

November 1992

Paterson, NJ

Dynamics of Child Sexual Abuse/Use of Anatomical Dolls – Passaic County Prosecutor's Office

April 6, 1992

Flemington, NJ

Child Victim Interview Course – Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office

Conferences Attended:

September 10, 2004

A Vision for Children: Strengthening Families and Communities - The New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Conference

Trenton, NJ

October 8, 1999

Caring Communities: Creating a righter Future for Our Children – The New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Conference

Contact: Donna Pincavage

Trenton, NJ

August 23-27, 1999

Finding Words – American Prosecutors Research Institute National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse

San Diego, CA

June 10-12, 1998

Involuntary Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators National Conference – American Prosecutors Research Institute's National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse

Washington, D.C.

June 1997

Muti-Disciplinary Training and Lecture Program (Three Days)

Contact: Lt. William Walsh

Sayerville, New Jersey

August 19-22, 1997

Crimes Against Children Seminar – Dallas Police Academy
Dallas, NJ

April 13-15, 1997

The 13th Annual Conference of the National Adolescent Perpetrator Network
Contact: Michael Nover
Cherry Hill, NJ

April 25 & 26, 1996

Hidden Victims, Hidden Crimes: Uncovering the Secrecy – 4th Annual Passaic County Multi-Disciplinary Team Conference
Contact: Maryclaire Balko
Paterson, NJ

October 1995
International Conference on Treatment of Sexual Abusers (4 days)
Association for Treatment of Sexual Abusers
New Orleans, LA

April 20 & 21, 1995

Working Together in the Investigation and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse – 3rd Annual Passaic County Multi-Disciplinary Team Conference
Contact: Maryclaire Balko
Paterson, NJ

January 23-27, 1995

San Diego Conference on Responding to Child Maltreatment – Children's Hospital San Diego Center for Child Protection
Contact: David Chadwick
San Diego, CA

September 1994

Child Abuse and Neglect – New Jersey Governor's Task Force on Abuse and Neglect
Brunswick, NJ

April 18 & 19, 1994

Investigation and Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse – 2nd Annual Passaic County Multi-Disciplinary Team Conference
Contact: Maryclaire Balko
Wayne, NJ

February 25-26, 1993

A Community Approach to Child Sexual Abuse in the 90's – Passaic County Multi-Disciplinary Team Conference
Contact: Maryclaire Appio
Totowa, NJ

September 1992

Child Abuse and Neglect – New Jersey's Governor's Task Force on Abuse and Neglect
New Brunswick, NJ

Courses:

April 6, 1992

Child Victim Interview Course – Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office
Flemington, NJ

November 3, 1989

Basic Prosecutor's Training Course – State of New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice
Trenton, NJ

Awards:

DYFS 2003 Certificate of Appreciation Award
April 10, 2003

APSAC's 2000 President's Honor Roll
July 14, 2000

APSAC Member
January 31, 1995 – January 31, 1996

Founding Member of American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children – New Jersey
November 20, 1995

Certification:

Instructor – State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Criminal Justice Police Training Commission
January 1, 1996