

Talking Points for Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors Assessments (Juvenile Reports)

- Refrain from using terminology such as ‘perpetrator’, ‘juvenile’, ‘sex offender’, ‘sexual behavior problem’, etc. When talking to families the child with problem sexual behaviors can usually just be referred to as the ‘child’.
- The goal of the assessment is on treatment and services, not on making a determination that a sex abuse act has occurred, on criminal consequences, or on whether the parent(s)/caregiver(s) has done something wrong.
- Recognize that a lot of parents/caregivers have difficulty talking about their child(ren)’s sexuality and sexual behaviors.
- Recognize that it is okay for parents to be angry at their children and/or protective of their children.
- The safety of **all** children is the paramount concern.
- Children’s Division will be talking to the victim child(ren) to try to find out as much about the child’s behavior as possible to assist in creating the most effective safety plan.
- There can be many reasons for a child’s problem sexual behavior. The assessment will focus on sensitive areas. This is necessary to help shed light on why the child may be exhibiting the behaviors and so the appropriate intervention can be provided.

When Field Staff are asked to Assist

- If the allegations involve the use of a weapon or serious physical injury, immediately notify the juvenile office and law enforcement prior to making contact with the family/child.
- Juvenile reports require parental notification prior to interviewing any child involved. Consent to interview the child of concern is required.
- Explain to the family that a hotline report has been made regarding concerns that their child has been sexually inappropriate with another child and the worker has been requested to assist by completing the initial face-to-face contact with the family due to statutory timeframes.
- A worker who is specialized to complete these reports will be assigned to follow up and complete the assessment. They will be in contact soon.
- Provide the following:
 - Description of the Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors Assessment (CS-24c)
 - Notice of Privacy Practices Regarding Your Protected Health Information (CSE-10)
 - Service Delivery Grievance Form (CS-131)
 - Know Your Rights Brochure (CS-132)
- Only complete cursory interviews with children unless a more in-depth interview is necessary to assure safety. If possible do not interview the child of concern about the allegations.
- An emergency safety plan may need to be completed to ensure safety of all children involved until the assigned worker can make contact. This can be completed on the CD-18. Make sure to consider all households the child of concern may visit and all the ways the child may have access to other children.
- If the parent/caregiver is unable or unwilling to engage in safety planning and safety cannot be assured any other way, consult with the assigned worker or a supervisor to determine the appropriateness of a referral to the juvenile office.