

MACRO CASE INVESTIGATIONS

Multiple Victim and/or Multiple
Perpetrator and/or Multiple Jurisdiction
Child Maltreatment Cases

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TRADITIONAL CONCEPT OF CA CASES

- Single victim
- Single Offender
- Single Investigator/ Team
- Single Jurisdiction

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WHAT IS A “MACROCASE”

- Multiple Victims and/or
- Multiple Offenders and/or
- Multiple Jurisdictions Requiring
- Multiple Investigators, Agencies, Disciplines

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TENNESSEE CRITERIA

- The Special Assist Team (SAT) may be deployed in the following sexual abuse situations:
 - Investigations that may involve multiple perpetrators in a child care or residential setting, or

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- Investigations that are anticipated to involve ten or more minors who may be alleged victims or collaterals who are:
 - Under the age of six, or
 - Severely language delayed, or
 - Present or past victims of sexual abuse, or
 - Behavior-disordered, “unruly”, or delinquent youth in a residential setting.

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GREAT BRITIAN-COMPLEX INVESTIGATIONS FORMAT

- Complex abuse is defined as situations where there:
 - Are multiple perpetrators; where two or more perpetrators have acted in concert to abuse children;
 - Are multiple victims; where a perpetrator may have abused a group of children who come from more than one family;

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- Is abuse by a professional; where it appears that a perpetrator has used their position to gain access to vulnerable children and has abused a child/ren he/she works with
- Is serial abuse; where a perpetrator abuses children in a number of different settings

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KEY MANTRAS

- “GO SLOW TO GO FAST”
- “PRIOR PLANNING PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE”

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COMPARISON

	Traditional Style	MacroCase
Front End Planning	little	significant
Number of staff assigned	small	increased
Length of Investigation	extended	(interview phase) shorter
Internal Information Sharing	Open	restricted
Coordination	Moderate	high
Parent Involvement	No organization	organized

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CONSIDERATIONS

- Numbers
 - Investigative Personnel
 - Potential Victims
 - Potential Offenders and Coordination Between Them

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CONSIDERATIONS

- Types of Cases
 - Single Preferential Offender
 - Multiple Perpetrators- Unplanned Dual Involvement
 - Multiple Perpetrators- Coordinated Involvement

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CONSIDERATIONS

- Timeframes
 - Length of On-going Abuse
 - Investigative Timeframes

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CONSIDERATIONS

- Coordination
 - Interdepartmental
 - With “Usual” Agencies and Entities
 - With Other Agencies/Entities not usually involved in child maltreatment investigations

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USUAL INVESTIGATIVE PERSONNEL / PLAYERS

- Law Enforcement (local, state, tribal, &/or Federal)
- Child Protective Services (county, state, multi-state)
- Prosecutor’s Office (local and/or federal)
- Medical Personnel
- Child Advocates/ Victim Witness Coordinators
- Child Advocacy Center
- Therapists
- Licensing

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POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL PLAYERS

- Charting Analyst/ Information Manager
- School Board Personnel
- Private Agency Personnel
- Computer Expert
- Photographic Expert
- Mental Health Specialists- Victim & Offender
- Federal Authorities
- Cultural, Spiritual advisors or “guides”
- Special Population Interviewers
- Logistical Specialist

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CONSIDERATIONS

- Technical Skills
 - The gathering of evidence is a sensitive, complex and difficult task. It requires a high level of skill in assessment and analysis of materials and documents and intensive scrutiny in order to ensure that as full a picture as possible can be produced.
 - » Memorandum 43
 - » National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

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CONSIDERATIONS

- Victimology:
 - Prior abuse history
 - Vulnerabilities
 - Type and reason for institutionalization/ out-of-home placement
 - Experience oppressive attitudes and behaviors that inhibit reporting abuse, do not empowered to report abusive experiences

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- Higher frequency of male victims
- Higher frequency of female perpetrators
- Stronger pressure and coercion
- Very young victims
- Higher frequency or more “deviate” sexual activities
- Greater likelihood of child to child sexual contact or other types of child “participation”, including “recruiting” other children

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CONSIDERATIONS--MEDIA

- High interest
- High profile
- On-going, continuing interest
- Will try to develop different sources in the investigative team
- Longer the investigation, more likely some media will magnify “flaws” and conduct their own “investigation”

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CONSIDERATIONS-- PARENTS

- Not all family members react the same way and they evolve or devolve over time.
 - The mismanagement of parents may be the single most common mistake in these cases, and the most damaging to a ‘successful’ case outcome.

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PARENTAL REACTIONS

- Overreacting:
 - Feel that current efforts are inadequate
 - Necessary for them to conduct their own investigation
 - Will repeatedly “interview” their child and do other things which potentially will contaminate the case findings
 - Possible survivor issues

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- Overprotective:
 - Reluctant to allow their child to be interviewed, may refuse altogether
 - Possible CPS and/or law enforcement contact with family
 - Possible unreported past or current abuse/ maltreatment in the home
 - Want the child to “forget it”

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- **Retribution:**
 - Enraged and want immediate action
 - Want progress reports, will contact frequently
 - Will go to media or supervisors if they feel the case is not going fast enough to suit them
 - May turn against investigators in diffuse anger
 - Strong possibility of self-blame
 - May try to harm the alleged offender, file lawsuit

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- **Non-believing:**
 - Refuse to believe, even in the face of credible evidence, that abuse actually took place or that the offender did anything wrong
 - Openly support alleged offender, be critical of investigators
 - May pressure a disclosing child into recanting or changing statement
 - Cause may be denial and/or unresolved survivor issues

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- Supportive:
 - Welfare of their child is the primary focus
 - May have reservations about aspects of the process but will listen to explanations
 - Usually reliable in making sure appointments are kept and supporting the goals of both therapy and the investigation
 - Cooperative and want the ‘truth’ to clarify in their own minds what happened

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CONSIDERATIONS-- LOGISTICS

- How are the interviews to be documented?
- Who will transcribe any audio/video tapes?
- Where will the tapes be kept?
- Where will the interviews take place?
- Where and by whom will the medicals take place?
- Who is responsible for keeping all the records?
- Where will the “command center” be located?

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CONSIDERATIONS– AGENCY CONSTRAINTS

- Fiscal
- Staffing
- Politics

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ROLES

- Child Welfare/ Child Protective Services
 - Make early determination whether case is within CPS responsibility
 - Coordinate with required agencies
 - Coordinate with County Council on legal issues and questions

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ROLES

- Law Enforcement
 - Coordinate with prosecutor on criminal legal issues and questions
 - Coordination with CPS on joint investigative procedures

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ROLES

- Prosecutor
 - Ensure immediate notification
 - Assume leadership in developing investigative protocol from earliest point
 - Assess needs for additional personnel to handle investigative/prosecution
 - Police
 - Prosecutors
 - Victim/witness personnel

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ROLES

- Therapist
 - Role is to provide therapy
 - Possibly used for Extended Forensic Evaluation when children strongly suspected to be victims are provided partial or no disclosure information

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ROLES

- Parents
 - Track children's statements and behaviors and document them
 - Maintain safety of the child or children
 - Support and follow through with recommended interventions for their child or children
 - Confine themselves to expressing concerns with the appropriate professionals, not their child/ren

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ROLES

- Medical Examinations/ Medical Evaluator(s)
 - Assist in the logistical process of setting up the medical examinations
 - Conduct appropriate medical evaluations
 - Have findings reviewed by forensically trained peers
 - Proper documentation of all findings provided in a timely fashion
 - Assist with ageing of children in photographic or video evidence

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ROLES

- Victim- Witness Professional
 - Coordinate with child and family concerning legal processes
 - Assist in applying for victim's compensation
 - Kids in Court School
 - Assist with coordination where children from the same cases will not spend extended, unsupervised periods of time together

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ROLES

- Probation
 - Lead in investigations involving facilities where they have placed children
 - Provide information if the alleged offender is on probation

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ROLES

- Other
 - Team Coordinator/s
 - Forensic Interviewers
 - Information Manager/ Charting Analyst
 - Logistical Support
 - Licensing
 - Media Liaison
 - Parent Liaison

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PUTTING IT TOGETHER SO IT DOESN'T FALL APART!

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ROLES

- Child Protective Services
 - Make early determination whether case is within CPS responsibility
 - If so, coordinate with law enforcement, prosecutor, county council, mental health professional, medical professionals, forensic interviewers

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PLANNING

- Initial Incident Evaluation Meeting
 - Who- minimally
 - ranking CPS supervisor,
 - ranking LE investigative supervisor,
 - appropriate attorney/s,
 - CPT leader/facilitator

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- The purpose of the Incident Evaluation Meeting is to:
 - Take a strategic view of the allegation and its ramifications;
 - Share information;
 - Determine how best to proceed;
 - Authorize additional resources where required;
 - Establish the parameters and conduct of the investigation;

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- Establish the lines of communication and accountability;
- The safe and secure storage of records;
- Communication strategy encompassing authority members, staff children and families, and the media;
- Assurances that the team will have full access to records and individuals that hold important information;

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- Secure access to legal advice;
- The regularity of strategic planning meetings and reviews to consider the conduct of the investigation, next steps and effectiveness of team work;
- Agreed written protocols between police, social services, and other agencies in relation to all key operational and policy matters, including information sharing;

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- Consider whether there are any children involved who need placement and/or therapeutic help, and how this should be achieved in a way consistent with the conduct of criminal investigations;
- Establish guidelines on counseling and welfare services services on disclosure of information (to avoid the contamination of evidence)
- Anticipate victim and families’ needs and services to meet those needs;

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- Provide care and support for the investigative teams
- Put into place a means of identifying and acting on lessons learned from the investigation

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TASKS OF THE IEM

- On consideration of the available information, the IEM members must:
 - Determine whether or not the allegation is a possible macrocase;
 - Establish jurisdiction or jurisdictions potentially involved;
 - Distinguish between the *investigative* and *support* phases of the process

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- Determine who should be included in the initial interviews; the general sequence, timing of interviews;
- Other agencies/ entities who should be involved;
- Considerations of each agency's role and responsibilities;
- Authorization of additional personnel for the investigative/assessment phase, supervision, support, media and community liaison

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- Clarify what information is to be shared with parents, and children about the allegation.
- How interviews are to be arranged and their location/s
- What information can be provided to the media and by whom
- Consider the need to establish a 'hotline' for the public and hotline staffing

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- Determine whether the information available; suggests the alleged abuser had access to children in their care in the past and what action needs to be taken in respect of them;
- Training to prepare investigative team members prior to beginning case work;
- Consider the need to brief top administration
- Resource inventory

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- Where the Incident Evaluation Meeting decides the situation is **not** a probable macrocase, the normal child protection/investigation procedures should be followed without delay.
 - This may be apparent at the initial meeting or may be determined at any stage.

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COORDINATORS

- Should have:
 - Task skills for their discipline
 - Conducting investigations
 - Legal processes
 - Risk and safety, child welfare
 - An over-view at a strategic level
 - Ability and authority to provide appropriate resources
 - Commitment to working the case as a team process

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INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEW DESIGN

- Working partners
- Cell concept
- Child interview clusters
- Validating
- Documentation and charting
- Follow up

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ASSIST TEAM PROTOCOL

- Accepting the Referral
(Local staff)
- Assist Team Coordinator Notification
(local supervisor/ regional office)
- Determining Level of Assist Intervention
(Team coordinator/ manager)
 - Preliminary Call Up
(supervisor)

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- **Scheduling Incident Evaluation Meeting**
(Team Supervisor/ Local Supervisor/ LE Coordinator)
- **Additional Personnel Assignment**
(CPS and LE Supervisors)
 - **Assign Staff**
(Team Supervisor/ Local Supervisor/ LE Coordinator)
 - **Interview Children**
(Forensic Interviewers/ CPS &or LE Trained Child Interviewers)

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- **Interview Adult Witnesses**
(Team investigators/ select local staff/ law enforcement)
- **Secure Relevant Records**
(Licensing/ Contract Monitors/ Law Enforcement)
- **Gather Physical Evidence**
(Law Enforcement)
- **Arrange Medical Exams (as necessary)**
(Local Staff)

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- Record/ Chart Investigative Data
(Data Analyst/ Charting Specialist)
- Interview Alleged Perpetrator/s
(Law Enforcement)
 - Staff Case
(All)
 - Validation
(All)

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- Safety Decision Making
(Local Staff/ Team/ Licensing/ County Council)
- Criminal Prosecution Decision Making
(District Attorney/ LE)
 - Debriefing
(All)
- After-Action Report Preparation
(Team Supervisor(s)/ Coordinators)

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ELEMENTS	CASES						M o n i c a
	Georgian Hills	Tidwell	Cater	Nichols	Reinhart	Combs	
Possibility of Multiple Victims	*	*	*	*		*	*
Possibility of Multiple Offenders	*	*	*	*		*	*
Possibility of Multiple Jurisdictions	*	*	*	*		*	*
Female Vic.	*	*				*	*
Male Victims	*		*	*	*		
Long Standing Abuse	*	*	*	*		*	
Pornography	*	*	*	*	*	*	U N K
Community Support	*		*	*	*		*
Parental Support	*	*	*	*	*		*
Danger to Investigators			*				

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MACROCASE SUMMARY CHART

	Acts of Abuse	Date	Time	Venue	Perpetrator	Witnesses	Evidence	Other Victims
Child 1								
Child 2								
Child 3								
Child 4								
Child 5								
Child 6								
Child 7								
Child 8								

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LEVELS OF DEPLOYMENT

- Consultation Only
- Exploration Only
- Assist Local Area
- Partial Deployment
- Full Deployment

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