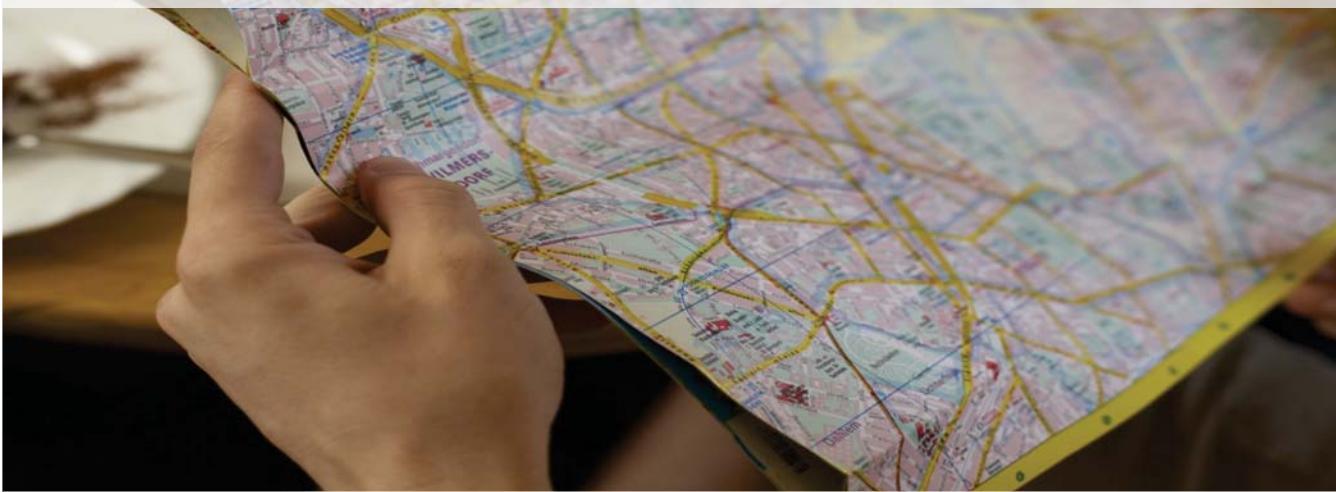




Family Reconnection & Reunification after Child Sexual Abuse: A Road Map for Advocates & Other Service Providers



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Who's in the room?



Sexual Assault Across the Lifespan: Training and Technical Assistance Project

Advocates
Law enforcement officers
Medical Professionals
Prosecutors



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How can we help?

The Lifespan Project team is ready to serve you through:

- Training/technical assistance
- Resource creation
- Trauma-informed resource creation/ promotion
- Networking, collaboration, and referrals
- Feel Good Tumblr

Working Together

Professionals who collaborate with the other systems see better case outcomes. It can lead to a healing experience for the survivor. Talking with other members of your community's response team will help you find the cracks in the system that many people slip through.



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Our Resources



Sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence can impact a person at any point across the lifespan. The NSVRC's Lifespan Project is a technical assistance initiative to provide advocates, medical providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and others with resources and strategies to effectively respond to and support survivors of sexual violence. The Lifespan Project focuses on trauma-informed service delivery with a particular concern for populations who may fall through the cracks of our systems.

The Lifespan Project Team can help with:

- Trauma-informed advocacy and counseling approaches
- How police officers and advocates can work together
- Best practices for medical providers and prosecutors when working with survivors of different ages
- How can I change our practices to be trauma-informed
- How to collaborate across systems when working with survivors
- The unique needs of survivors of different ages

The Lifespan Project Team is ready to serve you through:

- Customized training/technical assistance
- Creation of resources and tools around a trauma-informed response to sexual violence across the lifespan that both meet the needs of the field and highlight underserved populations
- Hosting and fostering an online community for conversation, resources sharing, etc.
- Collection and promotion of relevant resources around a trauma-informed response to sexual violence across the lifespan
- Offering opportunities for networking, collaboration, and referrals
- Hosting the NSVRC Tumblr "Feel Good" to promote wellness and self-care: www.nsvrc.tumblr.com

We are here to provide training and technical assistance to support you in your work. Contact us by emailing resources@nsvrc.org or submit a request at <http://www.nsvrc.org/contact/request-assistance>

www.nsvrc.org/projects/lifespan

Feel good.

[nsvrc.tumblr.com](http://www.nsvrc.tumblr.com)



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123 N. Ehola Drive, Endia, PA 17025
(877) 739-3895 • www.nsvrc.org • resources@nsvrc.org

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Family Reconnection & Reunification



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Definitions



- Clarification (3, 9)
- Reconnection
- Reunification (6)

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Why should I care?

- Family wants connection
- Planning increases control
- Supports increase safety & healthy outcomes
- Social media – increases likelihood of contact



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Important Concerns

- Abusive person's ability to control behaviors
- Family's ability to support & reinforce change
- The risk of re-victimization;
- Interests of victimized child
- Access to supportive resources



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We are all impacted

- 1 in 4 girls; 1 in 6 boys ⁽⁷⁾
- Life long consequences
- Fear immobilizes families
- Self-awareness can help our response



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Cultural Considerations

- Multiple cultural influences in any family
- Positive or negative history with services
- Unique support options
- Awareness of biases



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What do we know?

People who sexually abuse
children

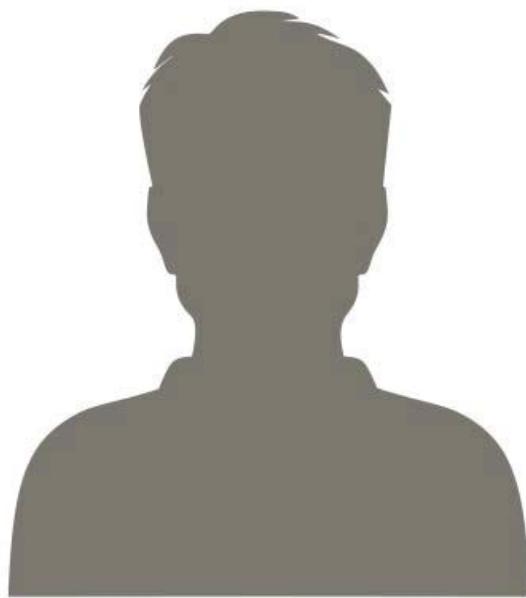
- Who are they?
- Impact of treatment?
- Person-first language



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Who are they?



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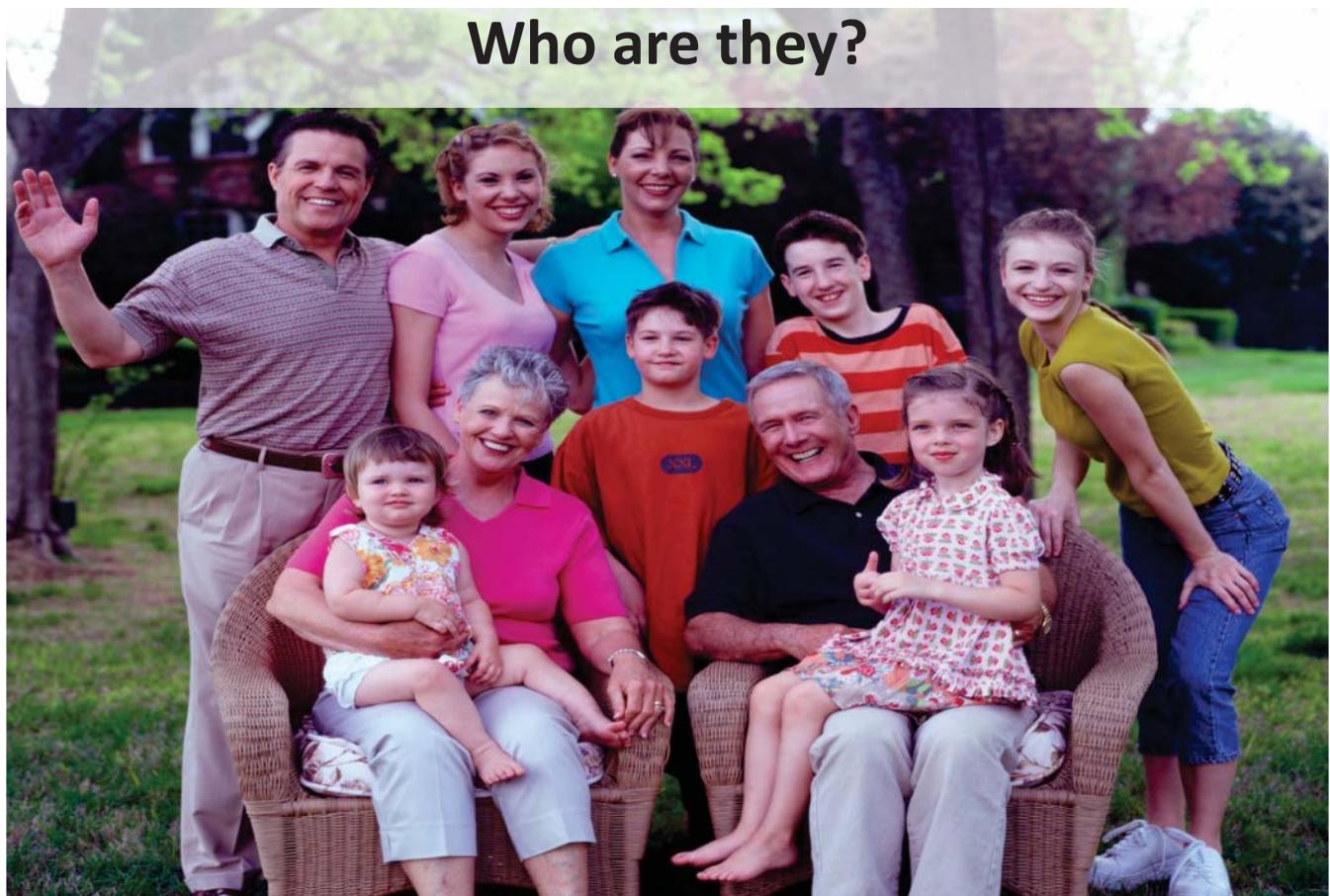
Who are they?



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Who are they?



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Who are they?

- 34% are family ⁽¹⁰⁾
- 59% are known to the victim ⁽¹⁰⁾
- Majority are male ⁽¹⁰⁾
- 30-50% are children or teens ^(2,8)



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Impact of Treatment?



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Impact of Treatment

- Not one-size-fits all ⁽³⁾
- Children and teens respond well to treatment ^(1,4)
- Males who sexually abuse outside of the family have highest recidivism rates ⁽⁵⁾



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Person-first language

Using person-first language:

- *“avoids defining them solely by that experience. It asks us to consider that people can change, heal and grow, and develop new, healthier identities. Person-first language demands hope.”* ⁽¹¹⁾



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Definition Review

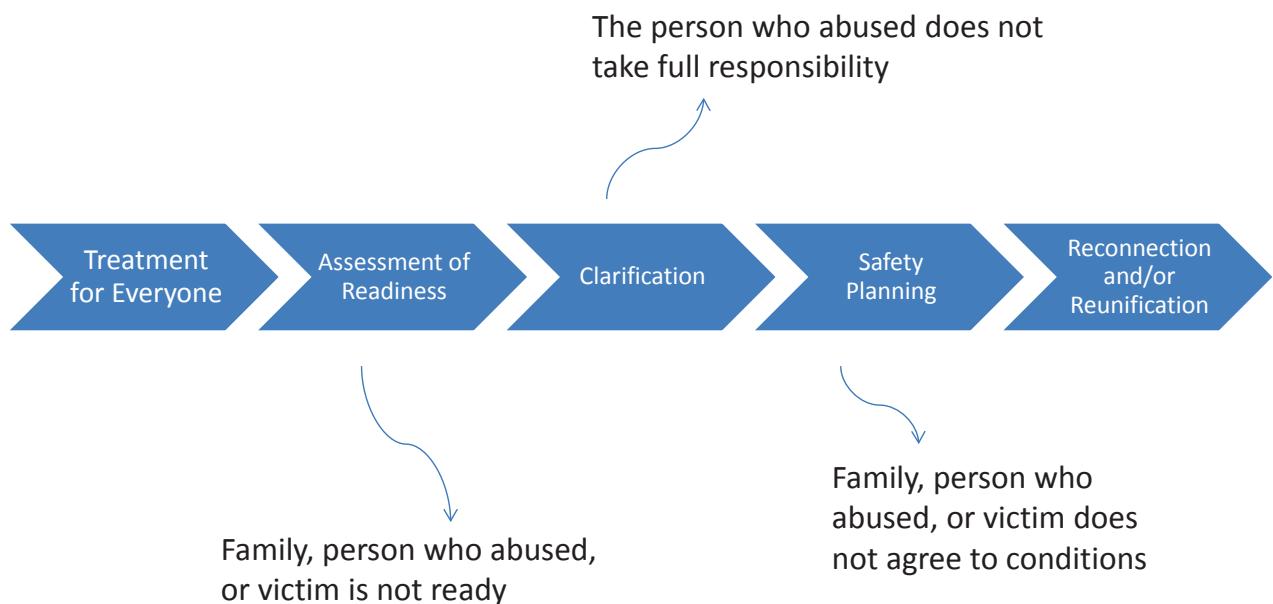


- Clarification ^(3,9)
- Reconnection
- Reunification ⁽⁶⁾

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Five Possible Steps to Reconnection and/or Reunification ⁽¹¹⁾



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Guiding Principles (11)

- Everyone brings a unique set of assumptions and principles
- Every member of the community deserves to be safe
- Acknowledge the harm caused to everyone
- Use of a trauma-informed approach
- Follow current best practice standards
- Do no further harm
- A collaborative approach brings all perspectives to the table
- Interventions are culturally-informed and strength-based
- Increased protective factors for child and family

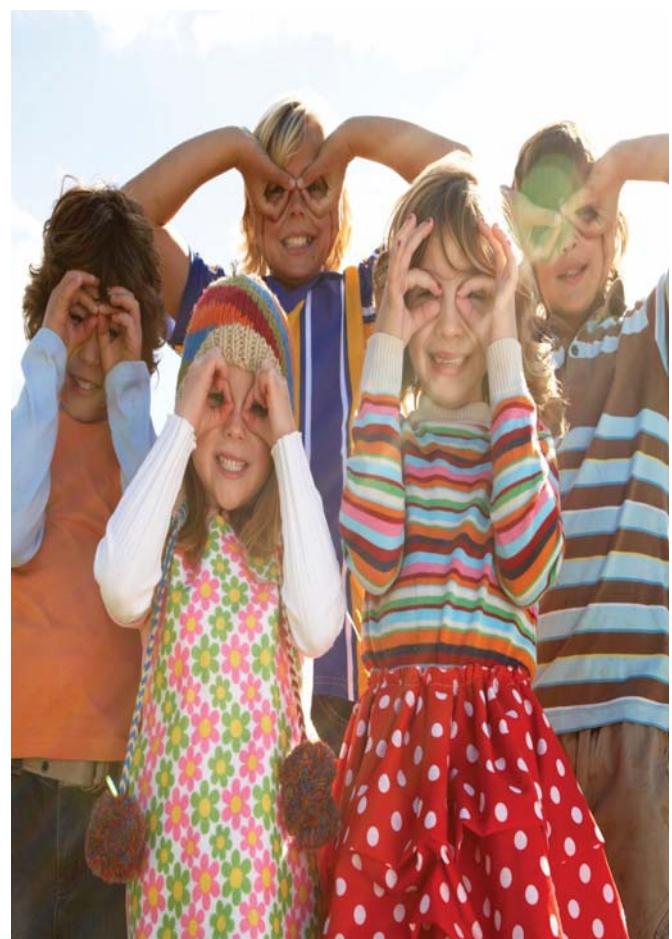
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Brainstorm!

What are some circumstances where the following might come into play?

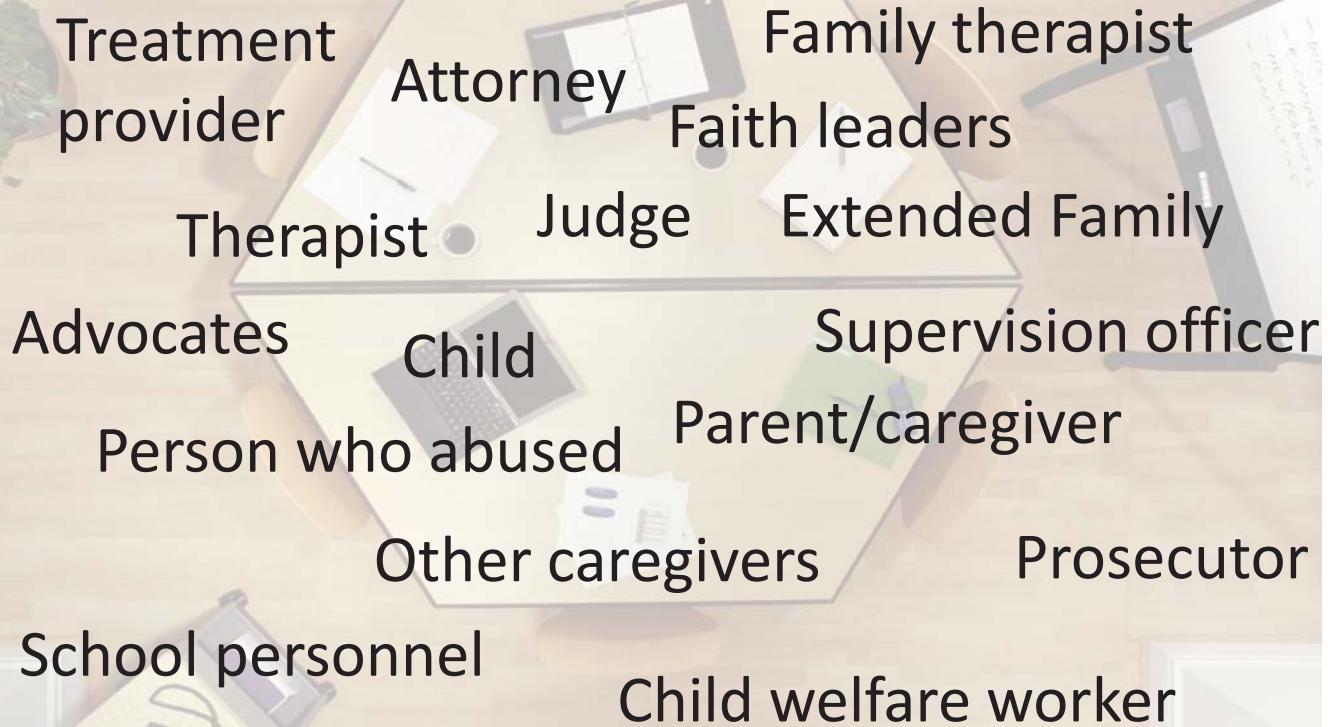
- Clarification
- Reconnection
- Reunification



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Who's at the table?



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Who's at the table?

- What are their interests?
- What are their strengths?
- How might the interests complement/conflict?

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Scenario Activity



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Small Group Discussion

- How challenging is your assigned role?
- Who will you feel aligned with?
- Who will you feel challenged by?



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Debrief Small Groups

- What were your concerns?
- What do you see as family strengths?
- How did your group decide to proceed?



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Additional Resources

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers:

<http://www.atsa.com/>

Center for Sex Offender Management:

<http://www.csom.org/>

Child Welfare Information Gateway: Family Reunification:

<http://tinyurl.com/oqh4s9z>

NEARI Press: <http://www.nearipress.org/>

Additional Resources

NSVRC Lifespan Project:
www.nsvrc.org/projects/lifespan

Resources for Resolving Violence:
<http://tinyurl.com/ocr6r3r>

Safer Society Foundation, Inc.:
<http://www.safersociety.org/>

Stop It Now!: <http://www.stopitnow.org/>

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Questions?



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How to contact the presenters

Joan Tabachnick:

DSM Consulting

info@joantabachnick.com

Peter Pollard:

1in6

peter@1in6.org

Jennifer Benner:

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

jbenner@nsvrc.org

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

www.nsvrc.org



Easy ways to connect with us

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

123 N. Enola Drive, Enola, PA 17025

Online: www.nsvrc.org

Call: (877) 739-3895

Email: resources@nsvrc.org



Thank you for joining us!

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