

# **BASIC GUIDELINES FOR FORENSIC INTERVIEWERS IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES IN INDIAN COUNTRY AND ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES**

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This document is intended to provide an overview of the primary considerations necessary in the interview process when allegations of child sexual abuse arise in Indian Country and Alaska Native communities. Forensic interviews are an important part of the investigative process, require specialized training and involve complex issues. This document outlines three areas of particular concern and is not intended to be a training tool that informs or guides the interview process.

## **Training for Interviewers:**

1. Overview of Child Sexual Abuse Dynamics
2. Child Development
3. Linguistics: Speech and Language Considerations with Native Children
4. Cultural Competency: Understanding Culture, History, Contemporary Realities and Practice Skills
5. Dynamics of Domestic Violence and Children as Witnesses
6. Memory and Suggestibility
7. Memory Development
8. Impact of Prior Disclosures on the Present Interview
9. Child Victim Interviewing
10. Defense "Proof" Interviewing Strategies
11. Testifying in Court
12. Role Playing Practice Skills
13. Live Clinics
14. Peer and Forensic Supervision

## **Cultural Competence:**

1. Diversity of Indigenous Nations
2. Intertribal Differences
3. Cultural, Tribal Affiliation and Identity (Assimilation and Acculturation)
4. Federal Indian Law and Policies: Historical Connections, Colonization and Contemporary Impact
5. Tribal Sovereignty
6. Effective Interventions and Skills, Acknowledge, Validate and Respect Indigenous Cultures and Language
7. Understanding Bias, Silence, Pace and Space
8. Community Readiness for Intervention in Child Sexual Abuse



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## **Core Components of the Child Interview:**

1. Introduction
2. Rapport Building
3. Developmental and Cultural Screening
4. Guidelines for the Interview
5. Describing a Neutral Event
6. Competency (P.L. 280 States)
7. Topic of Concern (May include the use of interview aids)
8. Questioning Structure: free narrative, open, specific and follow-up questions
9. Reviewing the Interview
10. Closure

### ***For more information:***

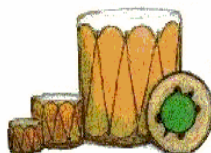
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Listening to the Voices of Children, Families and Tribal Communities.

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