

UTILIZING THE MDT TO INVESTIGATE &  
PROSECUTE CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN IN  
INDIAN COUNTRY

*{a trauma-informed approach}*

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SINCE

2009

SALT RIVER FAC

1	2	3
COMFORT	INVESTIGATE	COUNSEL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bath or shower</li><li>• Clean clothes</li><li>• Food</li><li>• Safe, child-friendly space</li><li>• Community-member staff and aids</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forensic interviewer</li><li>• FAC staff</li><li>• Prosecutor</li><li>• Detective</li><li>• Social worker</li><li>• Guardian ad litem</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Probation</li><li>• Behavioral health</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Internal services?</li><li>• If not, referrals to outside providers</li><li>• Timely follow-up</li></ul>

COMFORT

1

*first things first*

# CULTURAL

*surroundings*

CAN HELP CHILDREN TO FEEL SAFE & COMFORTABLE

## 1: *comfort*

CHILDREN DESERVE RESPECT  
AND PERSONAL DIGNITY

**1: *comfort***

YOU CAN'T INTERVIEW A  
SCARED, HUNGRY,  
TRAUMATIZED CHILD

**1: *comfort***

IF THE CHILD FEELS SAFE,  
THEN THE INTERVIEW PROCESS  
IS LESS LIKELY TO CAUSE  
ADDITIONAL TRAUMA



## 2: *the forensic interview*

AIM TO INTERVIEW  
THE CHILD ONLY ONCE

## 2: *the forensic interview*

A NEUTRAL, CHILD-FRIENDLY  
SETTING CAN ENCOURAGE  
DISCLOSURE



## 2: *the forensic interview*

USE AUDIO AND VIDEO  
RECORDING EQUIPMENT

## 2: *the forensic interview*

USE TRAINED FORENSIC  
INTERVIEWERS (WITH  
EXPERIENCE AS CHILD  
THERAPISTS)

## 2: *the forensic interview*

CHILDREN ARE UNPREDICTABLE  
- THE PRE-INTERVIEW  
DISCUSSION IS VITAL



## 2: *the forensic interview*

THIS DISCUSSION IS THE  
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY  
COMPONENT OF THE  
INTERVIEW

## 2: *the forensic interview*

CLEARLY DISCUSS THE TOPICS  
TO BE COVERED AND THE  
OVERALL PURPOSE AND AIM  
OF THE INTERVIEW

## 2: *the forensic interview*

TEAM MEETINGS CAN, AND OFTEN DO, CONTINUE AS THE CASE PROGRESSES

COUNSEL

3

*aftercare is crucial*

**3: *counseling and aftercare***

STRATEGIZE WAYS TO  
FACILITATE ACCESS TO  
COUNSELING

**3: *counseling and aftercare***

CAN THE TRIBE PROVIDE  
SERVICES? IF NOT, WHO  
SHOULD MAKE A REFERRAL?

### *3: counseling and aftercare*

REMEMBER TO REFER FOR  
SPECIFIC SERVICES WHEN  
NEEDED (I.E. SEXUAL ABUSE)

### *3: counseling and aftercare*

NEW REFERRALS MAY BE  
NEEDED LATER (AS TRIAL  
DATES APPROACH,  
VISITATIONS INCREASE, ETC.)

### 3: *counseling and aftercare*

THE TEAM PROVIDES ONGOING  
ASSISTANCE


### *Remember!*

—  
*Some children don't  
disclose abuse until they  
settle into a safe  
environment.*

[American Indian and Alaska Native] children experience post-traumatic stress disorder at the same rate as veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and triple the rate of the general population. With the convergence of exceptionally high crime rates, jurisdictional limitations, vastly under-resourced programs, and poverty, service providers and policy makers should assume that all AI/AN children have been exposed to violence.

*Attorney General's Advisory Committee  
on American Indian/Alaska Native Children  
Exposed to Violence*

thank you  
for listening



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