

# Understanding Child Sexual Abuse and the Technology Related Compliant Victim©

Presented by

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**Commanding Officer  
(Retired)  
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## Liability Waiver

- Conducting a child abuse investigation is an art and not a science.
- The many techniques discussed here have been utilized by the instructor while conducting actual child abuse investigations. Nothing in this program should be considered legal advice, medical advice or operational advice. The investigator must always follow his or her own local procedures, policies and state laws

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## Public Perception of Child Abuse Investigations

- On TV child abuse cases are usually solved in about an hour
- In real life.... Child abuse investigations can take days, weeks, years or they are not solved at all

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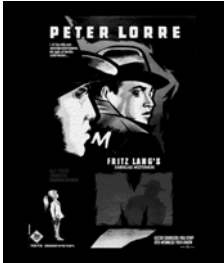
## Public Perception of Child Sexual Abuse Investigations

The stranger

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## Film – Public Perception of Child Sexual Abuse Investigations

1931 – Child Molester and Murderer



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## Child Sexual Abuse Crimes

### *Child Sexual Abuse*

- Within the family

### *Child Sexual Exploitation*

- Primarily outside the family
- Multiple victims
- Child pornography

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Remember the good old days  
before the Internet

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## Investigating Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation

*Following the explosion of the Internet –*

- Child molesters fully embraced utilizing the Internet
- A new or a different type of child molester appeared
- A new or a different type of child sexual exploitation victim appeared – the Technology Related Compliant Victim

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## Issue – Mixed Definitions of Terms

### *Public perception of Child Sexual Abuse*

- Many people have a mental image of a person age 12 or younger as the victim

*What do we call a 12 year old female – ?*

- Child ?
- Juvenile ?
- Minor ?
- Adolescent ?
- Tween ?

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## Issue – Mixed Definitions of Terms

### *Legal definition of Child and Minor*

- Varies statute to statute
- Varies state to state
- Varies country to country

### *Legal definition of Age of Consent*

- Varies state to state
- Varies country to country

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## Teens / Tweens – Generally

- Lack good decision making abilities
- Often use poor judgment
- Tend to be impulsive
- Sometimes rebellious
- Working on developing their own unique social needs
- Very susceptible to peer pressure

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## Teens / Tweens – Generally

- Have learned to manipulate their environment to get what they want
- Possess a normal sexual curiosity
- Consider themselves invincible – Live fearless lives

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ???

*Teens or tweens who cooperate and / or participate in their own victimization*

- The victim has developed intense and passionate feelings for the molester
- Even so, they are legally unable to give consent
- Child sexual exploitation

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

- Some victims become compliant because of the molester’s skill in making the victim see the relationship as a real one that is based on love and not fantasy
- The victim truly believes that the molester cares about them

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

### *Issues*

- The public idealistically prefers to perceive children as being pure and innocent rather than human beings with human needs....

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

- Because of their extensive communication it is very misleading to characterize the molester of this type of victim as a “stranger”

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

### *Issues – continued*

- Difficult for the Judge / Jury to understand or be sympathetic to this perceived type of non-innocent victimization....

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

### *Issues – continued*

- Important for the prosecutor to clarify the grooming process of the victim with a MDT Therapist – Expert witness in order to explain the victim’s complicity with the molester

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim



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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

The ADULT MOLESTER, while often pretending to be somewhat younger, trolls the Internet seeking a victim who is troubled or has low self esteem

- The selected victim is commonly a female
- He frequently identifies his potential victim from postings/photos on social network sites....

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He spends an enormous amount of time talking with the victim initially online and then later utilizing a cell phone
- He appears kind, loving and tender
- He is an exceptional listener and then shares personal things such as “I’ve never told anyone this before but ....”
- He is constantly assessing her to make sure that he is accepted....

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He never shows anger or displeasure
- He makes himself appear trustworthy
- He compliments her repeatedly, especially in those areas of low self esteem
- He makes her believe that the universe revolves around her
- He encourages her to create a private email account and/or point of contact....

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### **Forensic Interview – Specific Questions for the Technology Related Compliant Victim**

- Do you have a private email account?
- Do you have more than....(FIVE)?
- Do you have an online profile ?
- Do you have more than....(FIVE)?
- Where are they posted....

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### **Grooming the Compliant Victim**

- As part of the manipulation he gives her the illusion of control
- He unexpectedly sends her e-cards or gifts

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### **Grooming the Compliant Victim**

- The victim comes to believe that he is wonderful and truly cares about her
- He becomes her best friend – bff
- He attempts to isolate her from others
- He belittles her home life, parents, teachers and all of their rules
- He tells her that if she lived with him – she could stay out late, smoke, drink or use drugs

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### **Grooming the Compliant Victim**

- He constantly tells her that she is beautiful and he loves her
- He slowly becomes sexual professing it as a true expression of their love
- He initially encourages her “to just talk with him” about sex
- He then sends her explicit photos and videos, as validation, of older men and younger girls “hooking up” ....

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### **Grooming the Compliant Victim**

- He disrobes via the web-cam or in photos so she can see the “real him”
  
- He encourages her to disrobe for him in photos or via web-cam so he can see “how beautiful she is”

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### **Grooming the Compliant Victim**

- He encourages her to meet him at a hotel – so they can finally be together alone
- In love, they finally meet for a “date” which includes sex....

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He almost never uses threats, force, coercion or abduction to sexually abuse the victim
- The “seduced” victim has actively cooperated with the molester and has become compliant in her own abuse

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## Compliant Victims Rarely Disclose their Abuse

- Accident
- Medical – Pregnancy, STD (STI)
- Jealously – Molester approaches the victim’s friend or a younger sibling
- Anger – When the relationship ends
- Most compliant victims will deny their victimization and may even be hostile when confronted during an investigation

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## Compliant Victim – MDT Investigation

- As a result of the grooming process the victim does not perceive herself as a victim and will, in most cases, refuse to go along with the criminal investigation
- Some victims will continue to deny victimization even when shown seized images of themselves
- Some victims will continue to deny acts of victimization that the molester has confessed to the police

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## Compliant Victim – MDT Investigation

- If the victim finally discloses to a forensic interviewer she will often minimize her behavior and maximize the offender’s behavior
- The victim may relate that drugs or alcohol were provided, in order to explain her complicity
- The victim may embellish violent behavior used against her in order to minimize her shame/complicity

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## Compliant Victim – Conclusion

- Some people may object to the use of the term compliant victim, especially those individuals who cannot comprehend that a teen or tween can be willingly compliant in their own sexual abuse
- However, this unique type of sexual victimization must be candidly or frankly addressed – Don't assume that you understand their “seduced” world

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## Webcam and “Real Time” Problems for Teens and Tweens

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## Web Page Dangers for Children

- myspace.com
  - facebook.com
  - xanga.com
  - Avatars and Gaming sites
- yonline.com – social networks

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## Disclosure Process

### *Child Sexual Abuse*

- As the result of friends, TV or a school program

### *Technology Facilitated Compliant Victim Child Sexual Exploitation*

- Accident

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## Typical Technology Related Compliant Victim

- Naturally curious and trusting
- Easily led by adults
- Need for love, attention and affection
- Often from a single parent family
- “Nothing is wrong, I’m not a victim”

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## Technology Molester Seduction Techniques

- The adult molester, while often pretending to be somewhat younger....
- Bogus profile
- Pretends to care about children
- Language
- Asks for personal information
- Requests photos
- Talks about family/friends
- Telephone contact
- Wants to meet

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# Thank you !

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