



D55 False Allegation of Child Abduction

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have a better understanding of the dynamics and characteristics of child homicide cases in which the offender has reported the child as missing or kidnapped in order to cover up their involvement in the child's death.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating that one of the issues to be resolved in almost every missing child case is whether or not the parent(s) or some other person close to the victim is actually responsible for their disappearance. In the absence of a witnessed abduction or definitive forensic evidence it is often difficult to make that determination. The research project that this presentation is based upon is intended to provide insight into the dynamics and characteristics of these types of cases and direction to the law enforcement community responsible for their investigation.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide a better understanding of the dynamics and characteristics of false allegation of child abduction cases.

Parents and other caregivers are sometimes responsible for killing children who are under their care, and then falsely alleging that the child is missing, or has been abducted, in order to explain the child's disappearance and/or to cover up their complicity in the crime. These cases cause significant problems for the law enforcement agencies charged with their investigation, inasmuch as, absent witnesses or definitive forensic evidence, it is difficult to distinguish between a valid kidnapping and a false allegation.

The FBI's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime initiated a research project into these types of cases in order to gain a better understanding of the dynamics of false allegation cases, identify characteristics of these cases and how they may differ from true kidnapping cases, and to identify successful investigative strategies. Forty-nine (49) cases have been examined to date, and the key findings will be discussed during this presentation.

Child Abduction, False Allegation, Child Homicide