



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 20??

I11 **Compliant Child Victims of Sexual Abuse: Confronting an Uncomfortable Reality**

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After attending this presentation, participants will be able to recognize the inconsistencies in the way the criminal justice system deals with children as victims and as offenders, identify some of the intervention problems created by not recognizing the reality of children as human beings with needs, wants, and desires who learn to manipulate their environment, and be able to discuss and consider possible changes in intervention attitudes and procedures for dealing with child victims.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by increasing the likelihood that more child victims will disclose and more accurately disclose their sexual victimization.

In this presentation, the term *compliant* will be used to describe those children who in any way, partially or fully, cooperate in or “consent” to their sexual victimization without the threat or use of force or violence. Because children cannot legally consent to having sex with adults, this compliance should not in any way alter the fact that they can be victims of serious crimes. The term compliant is being used because at this time I cannot think of a better one. The primary purpose of this discussion is to bring out into the open possible reasons for this compliance (i.e., grooming and seduction) and to discuss its complexity and significance for child victims and professional interveners.

Compliant, Child, Victimization