



### D25 Ashamed Orgasm: A Rogerian Approach

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the importance of a Rogerian approach as an alternative solution for sexual abuse cases. After this presentation, the importance of this method of approach in the collection of testimonies in children's sexual abuse cases will be shown, either as a witness or the onlooker's first step of the therapeutic intervention.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by detailing the application of a new approach method, the Rogerian approach, to collect testimonies in cases of the sexual abuse of minors where another method based in a cognitive interview is commonly used.

In 2010, the Criminal Investigation Department of the Judicial Police of Setúbal (Portugal) was asked to investigate another case of the sexual abuse of the two minors. The police were presented with the parents of two minor girls, one 13-years-old, and the other 8-years-old. A male subject, 45-years-old, reported it as sexual abuse that had the confidence of the family. Once the investigation began, one of the capital moments came in investigations of this nature: the questioning of minors.

The Judicial Police officers who work in this area have training that allows them to work through the complexity of a sexual abuse victim's complaint. The training is based on the Cognitive Interview (C.I.).

Although the exposed above, in this case, the C.I. was not used, the reason is presented in this "case study." In this research, the choice relapsed on the Rogerian method - an approach based on the individual.

It was flagged the fact that the 13-year-old girl presented a testimony that was not truthful in its entirety, showing gaps in the information she could provide, being evident a notable incongruence between the "self" and the traumatic experiences, as well as a defensive distortion and denial of the facts. During the interaction, the minor had a defensive maintenance of the "self", a condition that was overtaken only when the interaction was supported by an unconditional positive regard and empathetic understanding by the interviewer about what had happened to the victim.

The blockage in the testimony had its genesis in the fact the minor may have experienced pleasure during the various abuses that she was subjected to by the individual, creating a latent incongruence between what she thought should be the experience and what she felt on this occasion. The use of the Rogerian method, emphasizing the importance of self-consciousness and congruence between the "self" and the experience allowed the young abused to realize that what she felt at the time was not reprehensible, but the result of mechanical stimulation of her genitals, that can promote pleasure and feelings, without being an acceptance of rape and active participation in the act.

We believe we also showed that the Rogerian method could be used in the collection of the children's testimonies in sexual abuse cases, either as a witness' onlooker or as a first therapeutic step of the intervention.

#### **Rogerian Method, Cognitive Interview, Sexual Abuse**