

Child Sexual Assault: The Hotline Experience.

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The presentation by the volunteers of the InTouch Crisis Hotline at the University of Illinois at Chicago will explore the difficulties a counselor may come into contact with when dealing with a survivor of child sexual abuse. The presentation will focus on the four trouble areas most likely to occur in a therapeutic setting.

The first area of focus is trouble with children reporting abuse. Often when children report abuse they are not believed, they are blamed for the abuse or are threatened by the perpetrator. This can not only delay but also taint the report.

The second area of focus involves interviewing children who are survivors of sexual abuse. There are many approaches to interviewing survivors of sexual abuse and this presentation will touch on the differences between suggestive vs. non-suggestive and socially supportive vs. non- socially supportive interviewing techniques.

The third area of focus involves possible long and short term outcomes of child sexual abuse. There can be many outcomes for a survivor of sexual assault and knowing what may come up can help the survivor cope with the changes.

The fourth and last general area of focus involves the different types of predators that may be present. In the new age of computers children are vulnerable not only on the streets but also in their own homes.

Finally, in addition to looking at the literature, this presentation will include reports of clinical experiences from the “front line.” In this portion of the presentation the volunteers of the InTouch Crisis Hotline will offer personal anecdotes and therapeutic suggestions regarding treating perpetrators and survivors of child sexual assault.

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