



# **Improving Joint Investigations of Child Abuse**

## **A Summary Report**

*by*

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## Foreword

In 1992, there were nearly 1.9 million reports received and referred for investigation on approximately 2.9 million children who were alleged victims of abuse and neglect. Nearly one million of these cases were substantiated. Almost half of the known deaths were children who had been in the child welfare system.

Since 1976, the rate of child abuse has increased 331 percent. The dramatic rise in the number and severity of cases of child abuse and neglect mandates that law enforcement and child protective agencies find ways to better coordinate their efforts to protect children at risk.

Agencies that do not work within some type of integrated, multidisciplinary framework may employ different, and even conflicting, procedures and philosophical orientations toward child abuse cases. Police often assume, for example, that child protection workers are oriented to maintaining the family and are therefore reluctant to pursue an abusive situation as a criminal case. Social workers, on the other hand, may believe that police agencies and prosecutors will seek criminal charges in every case, regardless of the interests of the family unit.

A joint law enforcement–child protective service approach can counteract some of the negative consequences of such inter-agency stereotypes and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of community responses to child abuse cases. The result should be a less confusing and psychologically stressful experience for the victim and family and also for the professionals responding to the case.

Fortunately, there is now increased awareness that effective responses to child abuse cases demand cooperative and coordinated action between law enforcement agencies and child protective services. Because police officers are in the community and often in people's homes, they are in a unique position to identify cases of abuse or neglect.

This report is about creating more humane and more effective ways of dealing with one of society's saddest problems—child abuse. Joint investigation is one approach that has proved its value. While it may be difficult to build and keep bridges among agencies, the results are clearly necessary if we are to help child victims and prevent further abuse.

Hubert Williams  
President  
Police Foundation



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# Introduction

**M**any law enforcement agencies and child protective service (CPS) units of public child welfare agencies across the nation are conducting joint investigations of reported child abuse. The impetus for this cooperation comes mainly from state laws requiring or authorizing these two agencies to notify one another of incoming reports of child abuse and to work or cooperate with one another. This cooperation should lessen additional trauma to child victims from repetitious and possibly conflicting investigations and should prove more effective in investigating these often difficult cases. The goal of this research is to develop program models and guidelines that describe how this interagency collaboration, involving two very different agencies, can be accomplished successfully.

The Police Foundation and the American Public Welfare Association (APWA) conducted research in 1991 through 1993 to determine how law enforcement and CPS investigators can improve joint investigations of child abuse cases. The project had three main objectives:

1. To examine joint investigations at the local level by conducting national surveys of law enforcement and CPS agencies. The surveys were designed to:
  - determine the incidence of joint investigation cases;
  - identify the types of child maltreatment cases—sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect—investigated jointly by CPS and the police;
  - examine the interagency agreements that govern joint investigations;
  - describe the characteristics, functions and training of police and CPS investigative personnel; and
  - assess the helpfulness of joint investigations and the barriers to effective implementation.
2. To identify elements of effective joint investigation programs by studying innovative cooperative programs in selected localities. The case studies were designed to:
  - determine the various investigative procedures used to conduct joint child abuse investigations; and
  - identify procedural and organizational approaches that facilitate joint investigations.
3. To develop guidelines for communities to design joint investigation programs or to enhance existing programs. Three models were developed that offer a



choice to communities that have varying resources to devote to joint investigation programs:

- a model that uses existing agency personnel and resources;
- a model offering a multidisciplinary interview center to facilitate victim interviews; and
- a model that uses a comprehensive child advocacy center for more effective joint investigations.



# Background

Child maltreatment reports have increased from 150,000 to 2.9 million children per year since the early 1960s, according to the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse (NCPCA, 1993). This increase is largely attributable to changes in state reporting laws. By 1967, all states had enacted legislation requiring doctors, teachers, and other professionals to report suspected instances of child abuse. These laws stipulate CPS and law enforcement agencies as the primary bodies to receive these reports, and mandate that law enforcement and CPS agencies notify each other of reported cases as a means of encouraging cooperation in investigations (Whitcomb, 1991).

## **The Roles of Child Protective Services and Law Enforcement In Conducting Investigations of Child Abuse**

While investigating allegations of reported abuse, both law enforcement and CPS need to know whether the children named in the allegations were abused and by whom. What the agencies do with this information differs according to their respective missions.

CPS units of public child welfare agencies are required to investigate all cases of reported child sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect, as defined by state statutes, occurring within a family. Most cases of abuse outside of the child's family are investigated by the police. CPS typically investigates cases of child abuse occurring outside the family only if the caretakers are suspected of somehow abetting the abuse or of not protecting the child against the abuse.

CPS is charged with protecting children from threatened or future harm. Threatened harm usually is based on past harm to the child by a family member during a pattern or incident of abuse or neglect. It also may be based on behavior capable of harming the child in the future. During or as a result of an investigation, CPS can recommend to the juvenile or family civil courts the removal of the child from the home for his or her protection. The child welfare agency also can intervene in the lives of families by offering or referring family members to a host of social services, including referrals to therapy, parenting classes, family preservation, support, and reunification services, and referrals to services geared to individual problems, such as substance abuse treatment. In the most dire cases of child maltreatment, the juvenile or family courts can terminate parental rights, and the child may be adopted.

Recently, there has been pressure on child welfare agencies, especially by the federal government, to support, preserve, and reunify families "at risk or in crisis" (P.L. 103-66). This approach would attempt to keep families together through community-



based services, rather than removing children from their families and keeping them in foster care. In the past, states frequently resorted to removing children from abusive caretakers. It remains to be seen how much of an effect this new emphasis on family preservation will have on joint investigations and whether it will apply to serious child maltreatment cases, wherein the potential for criminal prosecution exists. Many states already have implemented family preservation services.

Law enforcement agencies investigate potential criminal violations involving sexual abuse of minors, both within the family and without, and usually only the most serious cases of child physical abuse according to state criminal laws. The police also investigate all suspicious child deaths. Rarely does law enforcement investigate cases of child neglect or minor physical abuse reported to CPS unless they meet provisions in criminal statutes applying to criminal neglect or abuse. Law enforcement tries to build criminal cases against alleged offenders, based on evidence gathered through investigations, with the eventual goal of legal prosecution and punishment of the offender, even if this means breaking up families.

### **State Laws and Federal Legislation Governing Child Abuse and Interagency Cooperation in Child Abuse Investigations**

Sexual abuse of children is a crime in all states. Most states have separate incest statutes. Some states have revised their incest statutes to include stepparents and adoptive parents, as well as blood relatives (Smith et al., 1993). States generally prosecute child physical abuse under criminal statutes for homicide, manslaughter, and battery (Meyers, 1992). States are increasingly replacing ambiguous statutes with penalties defined specifically for child physical abuse and neglect (Smith et al., 1993).

As of December 1992, 29 states required or authorized joint investigations and cooperation between CPS and law enforcement in cases of reported child maltreatment (APRI, 1993). These statutes vary by state and typically include language that prescribes circumstances under which cooperation or joint investigations can or should be initiated, defines child maltreatment subject to cooperation or joint investigations, identifies agencies that are mandated to cooperate, and stipulates cross-reporting notification procedures.

Police usually report suspected abuse and neglect to CPS, even when they are not legally required to do so (Besharov and Asamoah, 1988). More than 40 states have passed legislation requiring CPS agencies to notify the police of child abuse cases when criminal



laws may have been violated (Besharov, 1990). In most states, CPS must notify police of at least the most serious types of abuse. Twenty-two states and the District of Columbia allow reporters of child abuse to contact either the child welfare agency or the police (Besharov and Asamoah, 1988).

The federal government encourages law enforcement and social services to cooperate in child abuse investigations. The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act requires that states receiving federal funds through the act establish multidisciplinary teams. The Children's Justice Act offers funds to states for establishing task forces comprising child advocate, CPS, health, judicial, legal, mental health, and parent participants to review and evaluate the handling of child abuse cases. Grantees have used funds to develop multidisciplinary teams, to provide technical assistance and written protocols for these teams, and to conduct joint training programs (NCCAN, 1992).

## **The Prosecution of Child Abuse**

Although the focus of this study is on law enforcement and CPS investigations of child abuse, prosecutors play a key role in any criminal investigation. Prosecutors have discretion in deciding which cases to bring before the courts and what charges to file. Some jurisdictions are much more aggressive in prosecuting child abuse cases than others. Some prosecutors have established specialized child abuse units with specially trained attorneys within their organizations and have employed vertical prosecutions in these cases to bolster their ability to prosecute these cases. In a vertical prosecution, one assistant prosecutor is responsible for a particular case from the beginning to the end of prosecution. Prosecutors can request follow-up investigations by law enforcement.

Prosecutors must judge how credible and reliable child victim-witnesses will be in court. The successful prosecution of child sexual abuse cases, in particular, relies heavily on the court testimony of children, since physical evidence is often lacking. The initial interviews of children by law enforcement officers or CPS workers therefore become key events in criminal prosecutions. A child's ability to disclose possible abuse in a clear and convincing fashion is often assessed at this early stage.

Experts disagree about whether child abuse offenders should be criminally prosecuted. Gray (1993) states that child welfare agencies see themselves as an alternative to prosecution until recently, when they began to see the social need of bringing sexual abusers to justice. A decade ago, a study of family violence found that child abuse cases initially reported to the police were much more likely to be prosecuted than those reported to child welfare agencies (Finkelhor, 1983). A more recent examination of case processing



found that, although one-half of CPS referrals for serious offenses were accepted for prosecution, more than two-thirds of police referrals resulted in indictments of the perpetrators (Whitcomb, 1991).

In answering why child abuse, a crime largely ignored by the criminal justice system as recently as 1979, should be prosecuted, Toth and Dinsmore (1989) reply:

- Prosecution makes perpetrators responsible for their actions, which is important for child victims;
- Prosecution confirms that adults do not have the right to harm children;
- Prosecution may have a deterrent effect;
- Meaningful treatment for offenders may come only after a criminal conviction;
- Incarceration may be the only way to contain some sex offenders; and
- Convictions of criminal child abuse become part of the offender's criminal record, which follows wherever the person goes.

### **Limited Statistics on Child Abuse Prosecutions**

Statistics on child abuse cases sent to prosecutors' offices, and resulting in arrests, indictments, plea bargains, trials, convictions, and sentences are unavailable in most jurisdictions. The FBI Uniform Crime Report does not have data on child sexual abuse and has very little information on family violence. In a study of child sexual abuse case outcomes in 10 counties within five states, representing 947 prosecuted cases, researchers found that 75 percent resulted in guilty pleas, 10 percent were dismissed, 12 percent went to trial, and 3 percent were deferred to determine the defendants' progress in treatment. Eighty-two percent of convictions included a felony conviction (Smith et al., 1993).

Prosecutors report that intrafamilial child abuse offenders receive more lenient sentences than child abusers who are unknown to their victims (Smith et al., 1993). Twenty states have penalties of up to five years of imprisonment for the most serious forms of incest involving penetration or intercourse. Fifteen states have stiffer penalties of 5 to 10 years, while nine states impose sentences of between 10 and 20 years (Smith et al., 1993). In the past, only a few perpetrators were arrested, and less than 5 percent prosecuted (Whitcomb, 1992).



## Reasons for Interagency Cooperation

The main reason for law enforcement and CPS to coordinate their responses to allegations of child abuse is to reduce the number of interviews with the child about the allegations. These interviews are generally considered to be traumatic to the child and, if conducted repeatedly, can re-victimize the child. Without interdisciplinary coordination, children are more likely to be subjected to numerous interviews by an array of patrol officers, detectives, CPS investigators, prosecutors, and medical and mental health personnel, each seeking the same information.

Criminal justice and child welfare professionals give further reasons for coordination between law enforcement and CPS (NIJ and NCCAN, 1993):

- to minimize the number of people involved in a case;
- to enhance the quality of evidence discovered for civil litigation or criminal prosecution;
- to provide information essential to family service agencies; and
- to minimize the likelihood of conflicts among agencies with different philosophies and mandates.

Goldstein (1987) favors joint law enforcement-CPS investigations from a practical police standpoint, noting that law enforcement-CPS teams prevent problems such as social workers contacting suspects before the police can. A simultaneous contact helps to preserve evidence and can prevent the suspect from tampering with witnesses. Goldstein also favors that police and CPS gather information at the same time to alleviate confidentiality problems that result because police are not permitted access to social workers files. Joint investigations also reduce instances in which children are returned home before the police can interview them.

Nationally, a group of law enforcement and child protective experts have reached a consensus that law enforcement provides the necessary authority to assist CPS in performing its therapeutic role. They agree that arresting and jailing offenders can at times more adequately protect children than can foster care or social services (Besharov, 1990). They have also acknowledged that law enforcement can assist CPS when parents will not allow access to the children. Rather than seeking a court order as CPS is required to do in about 30 states, law enforcement has the necessary authority in all states to enter homes forcibly and take emergency protective custody of children. Even in states where CPS has this authority, the preferred option is for police assistance. Finally, law enforcement can accompany CPS investigators in situations that may be personally dangerous to CPS workers.



Whitcomb (1992) advocates multidisciplinary “strike forces” that maximize protection of children. Like many others in the field, Whitcomb does not view these multidisciplinary teams as comprising only members from law enforcement and CPS, but rather sees them as a broader team of professionals, including representatives from the prosecutor’s office, an examining physician, a victim advocate, and perhaps the child’s therapist. Helfer and Kempe (1987) define multidisciplinary teams as including law enforcement, CPS, medical, and mental health representatives. Advocates of this approach believe it could decrease the incidence of repeated abuse, serious injury, and death; educate team members in the other disciplines represented on the team; and increase the appropriateness of treatment plans for the child and the family.

### **Further Attempts to Reduce Victimization of Children by the Legal System**

Proponents of legal reforms for child abuse victims point out that children should not be treated the same as adults in the criminal process. If they are, they can suffer from unnecessary stress that may not only harm the child but may lead to a miscarriage of justice. For example, a child may be so afraid of testifying in front of the abuser that he or she recants. Many studies have suggested that children can suffer trauma while testifying in court (Goodman et al., 1992). The general opinion is that certain innovations can ensure that children are more comfortable and less distressed during the legal process. This approach has implications for the implementation of law enforcement-CPS investigations of child abuse.

During the investigators’ interview of a child about abuse, developmentally appropriate interviewing techniques are strongly recommended, both to reduce trauma to the child and to obtain accurate information. A variety of developmentally appropriate, standard techniques can be used. Training of interviewers is considered necessary preparation for conducting these interviews. In addition, specially furnished interview rooms that children find nonthreatening are recommended. Pleasant surroundings can make the child feel comfortable, which may result in more and better disclosures. Other innovations, such as use of nonuniformed officers and one-way mirrors during interviews with the child—measures that are used to limit the number of observers present—also can be very helpful in investigations with children.

Several states have passed legislation to protect children from legal system harm. Nine states have legislation to limit the number of interviews with child victims, mentioning the psychological harm to children from multiple interviews. Twenty-three states and the federal government mandate speedy dispositions in criminal cases involving



child victims or witnesses to spare stress on children. Few of these states define what is meant by “speedy” (APRI, 1993). Some changes proposed to protect children from being traumatized by the legal system have been seriously challenged on constitutional grounds. These innovations include use of closed-circuit television and videotaped testimony of children in court, and use of hearsay exceptions. Legal experts argue that these innovations impinge on defendants’ Sixth Amendment rights to face one’s accuser and to cross-examine witnesses.

### **Child Advocacy Centers**

Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) were established to promote a comprehensive and coordinated multidisciplinary response to child abuse, to provide a child-friendly environment for the victim, and to prevent the trauma of multiple professional contacts (NNCAC, 1990). This pioneering program model was first established in 1985 in Huntsville, Alabama. Since then, CACs have been established nationwide. Currently, 223 CACs in 48 states are members of the National Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers.

Under this model, a CAC is designed to facilitate cooperative CPS and police staff work on child abuse cases. The CAC provides a separate building for interagency and case review meetings, child interviews, office space, and job-related training programs. In many centers, special interviewers—rather than the police or CPS—interview children or aid police and CPS in conducting these interviews.

### **Prior Research on Joint Investigations**

The Police Foundation has conducted two previous projects concerning law enforcement investigations of child abuse. The first identified police roles and responsibilities that contribute to effective interagency agreements for conducting joint child abuse investigations (Wycoff, 1988). The second involved a telephone survey of 122 large municipal police departments to examine how they investigate child abuse cases (Martin and Besharov, 1991). The findings indicated that most departments routinely report cases of abuse to local CPS agencies and that CPS notifies the police of almost all reported sexual abuse cases and the most serious cases of physical assault. In addition, 81 percent of the law enforcement agencies surveyed reported participating in a joint interagency agreement with CPS. Of all child maltreatment cases investigated, only 39 percent of sexual molestation, 23 percent of physical abuse, and 21 percent of neglect cases resulted in



arrests; the rest were determined to be unfounded, or not investigated further because of lack of evidence or uncooperative witnesses. (Martin and Hamilton, 1990).

Until recently, very little has been written about the actual experiences of CPS and law enforcement investigators in conducting joint investigations. Pence and Wilson (1992, 1994), a police officer and a social worker who worked together in Tennessee, have written about their experiences and offer many recommendations. Among the key issues they addressed was CPS's difficult role in not only finding out if abuse had occurred but in predicting if it would happen again. The major source of conflict they report is in CPS's philosophy and obligation toward family preservation, a concept that law enforcement has difficulty accepting. They pointed out that officers may not appreciate or realize the constraints and obligations of CPS. Other issues Pence and Wilson noted are the different decision-making styles of police and CPS investigators, police resistance to child visitation with parents while in foster care, and law enforcement's skepticism about the value of therapy. They also outlined several stages of police and CPS team building.

A recent study compared joint child abuse investigations with independent investigations. Tjaden and Anhalt (1994) found that joint investigations take significantly longer, shorten CPS response time, and double the number of CPS contacts. The researchers also found that joint investigations significantly affected every case outcome variable studied. Joint investigations were more likely to result in custody removals, perpetrator departures from the home, victim corroboration, perpetrator confessions, founded reports, development of treatment plans, dependency and criminal filings, and convictions. Practitioners interviewed for the study agreed that joint investigations take more time, are more thorough than independent investigations, and lead to better outcomes. They appreciated having second opinions and mutual support and being able to divide responsibilities. CPS workers liked having an emergency back-up. Barriers to effective implementation included lack of staffing resources, the low priority of these cases, and divergent philosophies. Joint investigations were said to have resulted both in more punishment and more court-ordered treatment.



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# Project Methodology

The Police Foundation-APWA research involved two phases. The initial phase consisted of separate mail surveys to CPS and police agencies in late 1991 and early 1992, using a national random sample of counties, stratified by population sizes. Three hundred twenty-five municipal police agencies, 279 county law enforcement agencies, and 239 child welfare agencies responded.

In the second phase, seven counties were selected for case studies, representing various population sizes; racial and ethnic compositions; urban, suburban, and rural compositions; and economic levels. These sites were selected on the basis of the survey results, personal recommendations, program variability, and the potential for serving as model joint-investigation programs. Police Foundation and APWA staff visited sites in Montgomery County, Maryland; Mobile County, Alabama; Dallas County, Texas; Santa Clara County, California; Sacramento County, California; Elkhart County, Indiana; and King County (Seattle), Washington, from April to December 1993. Project staff interviewed law enforcement and CPS administrators, supervisors, investigators and prosecutors, and, if appropriate, judges, medical and mental health personnel, and other key officials at each site. Project staff observed multidisciplinary case review meetings and other important meetings whenever possible.

The Police Foundation and APWA used the results of the case studies and the national surveys to develop guidelines for model joint investigation programs. These models offer a general description of each program, describe different program elements, and provide basic and enhanced program options.



# National Surveys of Law Enforcement and CPS Agencies

## The Law Enforcement Survey

Eighty percent of the responding police agencies and 95 percent of the sheriffs' departments reported that they conduct joint investigations with their local CPS agencies. Twenty-three percent of the responding agencies have written and signed agreements with their CPS agencies, and approximately 60 percent have unwritten agreements or other established guidelines. Larger police agencies tend to have more formal signed agreements, whereas those from smaller jurisdictions operate under established procedures and unwritten guidelines.

Thirteen percent of child abuse reports received by law enforcement agencies are investigated within the agency alone; 43 percent are investigated jointly with child protective services. The remainder of the cases are screened or referred to CPS or other law enforcement agencies.

Larger police agencies tend to conduct more independent child abuse investigations than smaller departments. Large municipal police agencies independently investigate proportionally more sexual abuse cases than do smaller agencies. On the other hand, departments from smaller jurisdictions tend to independently investigate more cases of physical neglect.

Most law enforcement agencies indicated that cooperative investigations are very helpful in resolving child maltreatment cases. Joint investigations were found to be more helpful in smaller agencies than in larger ones. This may be because of the heavy volume of cases in larger agencies, which handle up to 10 times more cases than in smaller agencies. Police investigators noted high turnover among CPS personnel in larger agencies as a barrier to effective joint investigations. As a result, police investigators feel they are constantly dealing with new and inexperienced CPS personnel.

Eighty percent of large police departments have separate child abuse investigation units, whereas only 24 percent of the smaller agencies have these specialized units. About 44 percent of the departments report that child abuse investigations are located in juvenile divisions, family violence units, or in child advocacy centers.

## The Child Protective Service Survey

Public child welfare agencies reported that 20 percent of the child maltreatment allegations they investigated in fiscal year 1991 were joint investigations with law



enforcement. This was fairly uniform across different-size agencies. According to the survey definition of joint investigations, “at least some of the investigation activities of suspected child maltreatment are performed by the CPS agency and any of the county or municipal law enforcement agencies jointly or in a coordinated manner.” Joint investigations typically occur only in the most serious, reported cases of abuse. Thirty-six percent of reported joint investigations are in response to allegations of physical abuse while 43 percent come from reported sexual abuse. Less serious cases of physical abuse and neglect tend to be investigated by CPS agencies alone. Although many CPS agencies could not provide data on substantiation decisions resulting from investigations, there is an indication that joint investigations tend to result in higher rates of substantiation than investigations conducted by CPS agencies alone.<sup>1</sup>

Interagency agreements between CPS agencies and law enforcement agencies typically contain provisions for:

- notification and reporting responsibilities of team members;
- criteria for joint investigations;
- interviews within the investigation; and
- the geographic area served by the team.

Provisions dealing with potential areas of conflict, however, such as designation of a lead agency, how team disputes will be resolved, or provisions for joint training, are absent from many agreements. Parties to such agreements typically include the CPS agency, the law enforcement agency, and the prosecutor’s office.

CPS agencies also reported obstacles to joint investigations. Lack of resources, in terms of staffing and budget, was reported as the most pressing problem for both CPS and law enforcement agencies. In addition, nearly half of the agencies admitted to problems with interagency coordination. Large CPS agencies, in particular, complained of issues of turf or politics, law enforcement agency policy, and resistance from law enforcement staff as substantial barriers to coordination. Only half of the CPS agencies have joint training with law enforcement. Fifty-six percent identified lack of training as a barrier to effective implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Rates of substantiation were 41.9 percent for joint investigation cases, compared with 36.8 percent for independent CPS investigations.



## Conclusions From the National Surveys

Results from the national surveys suggest a widespread need for improved joint investigation programs. The law enforcement and CPS surveys demonstrated that, nationally, joint investigations of child maltreatment allegations are fairly prevalent. They occur in 20 percent of the investigations conducted by CPS units of social service agencies and in 80 to 95 percent of the investigations of child maltreatment conducted by law enforcement. The surveys also showed that joint investigations usually are in response to allegations of the most serious forms of child maltreatment. Due to the severity of such allegations and the frequency of joint investigations, it is important that these investigations be conducted properly and with accommodations for child victims.

Despite advances in knowledge about child abuse victims and the issues surrounding the prosecution of such cases, few jurisdictions in the law enforcement survey reported having an advocacy center or a specialized facility for interviewing children. Instead, numerous barriers were reported that adversely affect joint investigations, including a lack of personnel and other agency resources dedicated to joint investigations, a lack of interagency cooperation due to such influences as turf battles, and a lack of joint training.

Both surveys also revealed that many locales do not have written, signed agreements between the two investigative agencies despite the fact that coordination between law enforcement and CPS is usually mandated by state law. Counties rely instead on established practice or individual agency operating procedures, which may not be totally understood or adopted by both agencies. In addition, the CPS survey found that existing agreements often lack important provisions, such as procedures for conflict resolution or protocols for interviewing children. These agreements usually exclude organizations beyond the social service agency, the law enforcement agency, and the prosecutor's office, although, as pointed out above, many experts in the field believe that a broader multidisciplinary team with representatives from the medical and mental health communities should participate.



## Case Studies

The case studies provided an opportunity to closely examine different innovative joint investigation programs implemented in diverse communities around the nation. These examples formed the basis for program elements that are described in the models. At the sites, research staff observed firsthand case review meetings of multidisciplinary teams and committee meetings held by oversight boards, and they were able to speak to the key players in the established joint investigation programs. Research staff studied programs in detail, starting from when a report of suspected abuse is received until both CPS and law enforcement have concluded their investigations. Research staff learned about the mechanics and guiding principles of these programs and about factors that both facilitate and impede their smooth operation.

Of the seven sites visited, three—Mobile, Alabama; Dallas, Texas; and Elkhart, Indiana—had CACs modeled after the Huntsville Children’s Advocacy Center program. The two California sites had multidisciplinary interview centers (MDICs) which, although similar to CACs in many respects, do not collocate investigative staff in the center, using it mainly as a place for interviewing children and holding conferences and meetings for team members. King County (Seattle) hosted a somewhat similar program wherein the district attorney’s office had hired a child interview specialist to interview young victims of sexual abuse in a specially designed room with observation capabilities.

Montgomery County, Maryland, had the most traditional program, whereby investigators from both agencies met in the field to conduct joint interviews of children or in the police station when this could be arranged. Investigators worked out of their respective agencies, which were separated by a substantial distance. The telephone was the main means of communications. Joint activities were frequently inconvenient in this agency-based model.

Santa Clara, King, and Montgomery Counties stationed a CPS worker or police investigator at the other’s site to facilitate quick mutual responses and to act as liaisons.

A description of the seven sites visited is shown in Table 1.



# Table 1

## Description of Sites

ISSUES	MONTGOMERY	MOBILE	DALLAS	SANTA CLARA	SACRAMENTO	ELKHART	KING/ SEATTLE
County Population <sup>1</sup>	757,000	379,000	1,853,000	1,498,000	1,041,000	156,000	1,507,000
Urban, Suburban, Rural	Suburban	Urban/ Rural	Urban	Urban/ Suburban/ Rural	Urban/ Suburban/ Rural	Small Town/ Rural	Urban/ Suburban
Geographic Location	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Western	Western	Midwest	Northwest
1989 Median Family Income <sup>2</sup>	\$61,988	\$27,601	\$36,982	\$53,670	\$37,841	\$35,152	\$44,555
Families with Income Below Poverty Level in 1989 <sup>3</sup>	2.7%	17.5%	10.4%	5%	9.8%	5.3%	5%
Sizeable Racial/Ethnic Groups <sup>4</sup>	White-72% Black-11.8% Asian-8.1% Hispanic-7.4%	White-67% Black-31%	White-60% Black-19.5% Hispanic-17%	White-58% Hispanic-21% Asian-16.8%	White-69% Hispanic-11.6% Black-9% Asian-8.8%	White-92.6%	White-83% Asian-7.7% Black-5%
Referrals/Calls Received by CPS in 1992	8,674	3,156 (1991/92)	14,022	25,464	34,000 (projected)	1,230	13,876
Is There a Joint Agreement Between CPS and Law Enforcement Agencies?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Base of Joint Child Abuse Investigative Program	agencies	Child Advocacy Center (CAC)	CAC	Multidisciplinary Interview Center (MDIC) and agencies	MDIC and agencies	Child and Family Advocacy Center (CFAC)	DA's Office or agencies
Criteria for Types of Cases to Be Jointly Investigated <sup>5</sup>	-sexual abuse -requires medical treatment -9 yrs. and younger -multiple victims -weekends or holidays <sup>6</sup>	-sexual abuse -imminent risk -serious physical abuse (Priority 1 & 2) <sup>7</sup>	-sexual abuse (14 yrs. or younger) -serious physical abuse (Priority 1) -failure to thrive	-sexual abuse -serious physical abuse	MDIC: -sexual abuse and 14 yrs. or younger Agency-Based: -serious physical abuse	-sexual abuse -serious physical abuse	DA's: -sex abuse & 8 yrs. or younger Agency-Based: -other sex and serious physical abuse
Activities in Joint Investigation	-interview of child -follow-up if possible	-interview of child -early staffing meetings -case reviews	-interview of child -weekly staffings -case reviews	-interview of child -pre-interview conference -post-interview conference	-interview of child -pre-interview conference -post-interview conference -MDIC and medical case review	-interview of child -pre-interview conference -post-interview conference -case review	-interview of child



ISSUES	MONT-GOMERY	MOBILE	DALLAS	SANTA CLARA	SACRA-MENTO	ELKHART	KING/ SEATTLE
Who Conducts Interview of Child Concerning the Abuse?	CPS or police	CPS or police	child advocate or police	police	child interview specialist, CPS, and perhaps sheriff's office	child interviewer CPS, or police	CPS, police, or child interview specialist
Where are Interviews of Child Concerning the Abuse Conducted?	field or police station	CAC or field	CAC	MDIC or field	MDIC or sheriff's office, and field	CFAC or field	field or DA's office
Is There a Protocol for Interviewing the Child Concerning the Abuse?	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
When Does the Prosecutor Normally Get Involved in Joint Investigation Cases?	end of criminal investigation	from the start	after grand jury	at child interview	before the interview of child	case review	immediately if child is 8 yrs. or younger and sexually abused, otherwise end of criminal investigation
Focus of CAC/MDIC	N/A	criminal investigation	criminal and child protection	criminal investigation	criminal investigation	criminal and child protection	criminal investigation
Lead Agency in CAC/MDIC	N/A	DA	Center's Board	DA	DA	Child Abuse Prevention Services, Inc.	DA
Personnel Located in CAC/MDIC	N/A	-director -ADA -detectives -CPS supervisor & investigators -forensic medical director -mental health -support staff -part-time victim witness advocate	-director -child advocates -CPS supervisors & investigators -police supervisors investigators -mental health supervisor staff -support staff	none	-director -interview specialists -ADA -CPS intern -support staff	-director -child interviewer -CPS investigators -detectives (teams)	-child interview specialist
Joint Training of CPS and Law Enforcement Personnel?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

<sup>1</sup> Based on 1990 Census data, rounded to nearest thousand.

<sup>2</sup> Based on Census data.

<sup>3</sup> Based on Census data.

<sup>4</sup> Based on 1990 Census data.

<sup>5</sup> These are formal criteria. Interviewees said they are not necessarily followed.

<sup>6</sup> These criteria were recently revised. The child's age criteria was replaced with "significant harm" to child's health or welfare.

<sup>7</sup> These criteria were being revised at the time of research.



Common joint investigation activities included pre- and post- interview conferences and case review meetings. In pre-interview conferences, CPS and law enforcement investigators discuss the information they have and make any necessary decisions concerning who will conduct the interview and what techniques will be used. In post-interview conferences, the investigators discuss their reactions to the interview and their joint and individual plans of action. In case review meetings, all recent cases are discussed by the broader, multidisciplinary team. Each investigative team member shares his or her experiences on the case and each agency's decisions. Criminal filing decisions are frequently made during these meetings since an assistant prosecutor usually is present. Jurisdictions with child advocacy centers conduct case review meetings more regularly, than those without, and with greater participation from the broader team.

Sites with child advocacy centers had many advantages over sites that conducted more traditional agency-based joint investigations. In addition to a commitment from influential civic leaders, these sites had greater resources, a visible identity, a staff devoted to making the program work, facilities and equipment for conducting child-friendly interviews, readily available multidisciplinary expertise, possibly a highly trained child interview specialist, and easily accessible investigative team members. Sites with child advocacy centers also tended to have more written protocols and more formalization of joint investigation procedures than jurisdictions without centers.

The case studies led to the following recommendations:

1. Coordinating child abuse investigations between law enforcement and CPS is a worthy and feasible goal for many different communities, and can result in more efficient, more informed, and less-conflicting investigations.
2. Written agreements are essential to instituting and maintaining joint-investigation programs. At a minimum they should include:
  - the principles and goals of multidisciplinary investigations in the community;
  - joint notification procedures;
  - criteria for joint investigations;
  - protocols for how joint investigations are to be conducted, including child interviews;
  - a summary of criminal laws and public welfare laws concerning child abuse investigations;
  - procedures for conflict resolution;



- members of policy committees; and
- the roles of the prosecutor and of other participating agencies.

Written agreements provide for accountability and promote the institutionalization of the program. They should be revised periodically to reflect any changes in practice, law, leadership, and philosophies. All agency directors of the broader multidisciplinary team in the community should sign this agreement.

3. Criteria for joint investigations should be reviewed periodically by law enforcement and CPS.
4. In cases that meet the criteria for joint investigations, interviews with children concerning abuse should be kept to a minimum and should be attended by both the law enforcement and CPS investigators. If possible, prosecutors and other members of the broader multidisciplinary team should also observe these victim interviews or review records of them rather than reinterviewing children. Protocols should define who will interview children and what methods will be used for interviewing children of different ages, genders, and other characteristics. Guidelines should include how interviews will be documented and what security procedures will be used to maintain confidentiality. Joint training on forensic interviewing of children is crucial. A child-interview specialist also may be hired and trained to conduct interviews with victims.
5. Pre- and post-interview conferences and case review meetings should be encouraged and formalized as a means of facilitating coordination and collaboration between law enforcement and CPS investigators. Training in these activities would be helpful. Communication and follow-up on independent case actions of team members should also be encouraged.
6. Agencies should carefully examine internal cross-reporting procedures, staffing schedules, and resources to ensure accessibility and availability of team members to one another. In emergencies, mutual responses should not be thwarted because one team member cannot be reached, because of different shifts, or because a report has not yet reached an investigator.
7. Response time and the time needed to conduct the joint investigations should be consistent between the two agencies. Law enforcement agencies have more time to conduct their investigations and are not under the same statutory mandates as CPS to begin and end child abuse investigations within a specified timeframe. In the interest of working together and reaping the benefits of joint investigations, investigators in both agencies should attempt to accommodate the needs of the other.



8. Law enforcement and child welfare agencies should have clear policies concerning decision-making while participating on the multidisciplinary team.
9. Both agencies must devote adequate staff to the joint investigation. Overworked investigators are much more likely to compromise established cooperative practices.
10. Both law enforcement and CPS agencies must address investigator burnout and take measures to reduce stress, including:
  - clearly defined duties and responsibilities;
  - adequate training;
  - supportive supervision; and
  - an atmosphere that accepts the inevitable conflicts of agency philosophies that surface in multidisciplinary teams.



# Joint Investigation Program Models

The case studies suggest three basic models for joint investigations of child abuse:

- improved joint investigations using existing agency personnel and resources;
- MDICs to facilitate victim interviews; and
- CACs for more effective joint investigations.

Each model assumes that effective case intake and screening procedures will occur within CPS and law enforcement agencies. Intake workers should be well trained to assess reports as they are received, and their performance should be reviewed periodically to ensure that eligible joint investigation cases do not fall through the cracks.

The first model describes a basic joint-investigation model requiring a minimum of additional agency resources for development and implementation (Program Model 1). Joint investigations of child maltreatment are handled by investigative units in child welfare and law enforcement agencies. A child abuse investigation steering committee would guide improvements to the joint investigation program plan, implementation, and monitoring. This committee would be comprised of high-level agency representatives from law enforcement, child welfare, the prosecutor's office, possibly the judiciary, from both family or juvenile court and criminal court, and members of the medical and mental health communities.

In addition to a permanent steering committee to oversee operations, a child abuse coordinator should be appointed to chair steering committee meetings, prepare progress reports, identify problems, set up case review meetings, and help design program modifications and joint training activities. Child-friendly interview rooms should be prepared so that young victims do not feel threatened or ill at ease while being interviewed. An observation room with a one-way mirror can facilitate the interview by limiting the number of people in the room with the child. Finally, all recommendations previously mentioned would be implemented as well.



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## Program Model 1 Improved Agency-Based Joint Investigations Using Existing Agency Resources

**Program Description** Joint child abuse investigations are handled by specialized investigative units of police or sheriffs' departments, CPS investigators, and assigned district attorneys, using written protocols. Investigators use existing facilities—schools, hospitals, police stations, or CPS offices, for example—to interview alleged victims. These jurisdictions do not have specialized victim interview centers or CAC programs. Joint investigations can be improved, however, by developing a joint investigation steering committee, written joint investigation protocols, pre- and post-interview conferences, regularly scheduled case review meetings, and joint training programs. Assigning CPS caseworkers and police detectives to work on site with police and CPS investigative units also can facilitate the joint investigation process.

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**Program Variations**

**A basic joint investigation model** should include:

- a program steering committee comprised of police, CPS, prosecutor, medical, and mental health agency representatives, and possibly judicial representatives;
- a program coordinator to chair the steering committee, resolve problems, help design joint training activities, and monitor program implementation;
- a police-CPS child-friendly interview room;
- regularly scheduled case review meetings attended by police, CPS, medical, and mental health participants;
- participation by the prosecutor's office in the case review process;
- pre- and post-interview conferences between CPS and police investigators;
- access to mental health therapists to initiate victim treatment and to facilitate the investigation process;
- joint training programs for police and CPS investigators; and
- program review and feedback of unresolved problems to the steering committee.

**An enhanced joint investigation model** also may include:

- one or more CPS caseworkers assigned as liaisons to the police department's child abuse investigation unit, or a police investigator assigned to CPS (on a rotating basis, if necessary);
- a police-CPS victim interview room with observation capabilities;
- specialized training for police and CPS staff in the latest interviewing and investigative techniques; and
- program evaluation and feedback, using case tracking and follow-up records.

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The MDIC model (Program Model 2), incorporates all of the program elements found in the agency-based approach—such as effective intake, screening, and cross-reporting; written agreements; formation of a steering committee; joint training; pre- and post-interview conferences and case review meetings; and case monitoring. In addition, police detectives, CPS investigators, and perhaps assistant district attorneys can meet in MDICs to conduct child-victim interviews and develop investigation strategies. MDICs could serve both sexually and physically abused children.



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## Program Model 2 Multidisciplinary Interview Center Model

**Program Description** Although many jurisdictions would like to develop independent CACs to conduct joint investigations of child abuse, these programs are not always feasible, due to lack of funding or sponsorship. The MDIC is an alternative where police detectives, CPS investigators, and perhaps assistant district attorneys can conduct victim interviews and develop investigation strategies. MDICs generally have limited staffing, with only a part-time administrator at a minimum. A specialist may be available to conduct victim interviews. Funding could come from agency budgets, combined with other funding sources. MDICs are designed to enhance joint investigations of child sexual and physical abuse and reduce the trauma of repeated victim interviews.

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**Program Variations**

A **basic MDIC program** includes:

- an active steering committee to review procedures and set policies;
- a full- or part-time program administrator to coordinate use of the MDIC;
- office facilities large enough to conduct victim interviews and provide meeting space;
- pre- and post-interview conferences;
- regularly scheduled case review meetings;
- access to mental health therapists to initiate victim treatment and to facilitate the investigation process;
- joint training programs for police and CPS investigators; and
- a case monitoring system to help assess case dispositions.

In addition, an **enhanced MDIC program** includes:

- administrative support staff, in addition to a full-time program administrator, to schedule victim interviews and maintain case records;
- specialized training for police officers and CPS caseworkers in the latest interviewing and investigative techniques; and
- program evaluation and feedback, using case tracking and follow-up records.

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Child interview specialists may be hired to conduct the forensic interviews with child victims at the MDIC, or perhaps just with the younger sexual abuse victims. Interview specialists should be selected for their knowledge of child development, child abuse, and appropriate forensic interviewing techniques. Agencies would have to select a sponsor for the center and a lead or administrative agency. Funding could come from agency budgets, state or federal grants, private donations, philanthropies, or ideally from county or state budgets.

The final model, the CAC, is based on the Huntsville, Alabama, program (Program Model 3).



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## Program Model 3 Child Advocacy Center Model

**Program Description** CACs are independent multidisciplinary programs designed to facilitate joint investigations of reported child abuse, reduce the trauma of repeated victim interviews, and initiate victim therapy. Law enforcement and CPS investigators are collocated in an independent physical facility, and victims are interviewed in specially designed, child-friendly surroundings. CAC operations are governed by an independent board of directors. The CAC director supervises administrative and support staff and conducts fundraising. Most CACs have a cadre of mental health therapists, child advocates, and volunteers to assist the police and CPS investigations and to work with the victims and their families.

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**Program Variations**

A **basic CAC program** should include:

- an independent, nonprofit organization to administer the program;
- an active board of directors to set policies and assist with fundraising;
- a full-time program director to coordinate the center's programs, supervise support staff, and implement fundraising;
- a building or office facilities large enough to conduct victim interviews, house police and CPS investigators, and provide meeting space for case reviews;
- pre- and post-interview conferences;
- regularly scheduled case review meetings;
- participation by the prosecutor's office in the case review process;
- access to mental health therapists to initiate victim treatment and to facilitate the investigation process;
- joint training programs for police and CPS investigators; and
- case tracking and follow-up.

In addition, a **full-service CAC** should also include:

- full- or part-time administrative and support staff to maintain case records and assist the professional staff;
- full-time child victim advocates to work with the victim and other family members;
- interview specialists to conduct forensic interviews with younger children;
- full- or part-time mental health therapists to assist the police and CPS investigations and to initiate the treatment process;
- specialized training in the latest interviewing and investigative techniques; and
- program evaluation and feedback, using case tracking and follow-up records.

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Child advocacy centers collocate CPS and police investigators in a separate physical facility. CACs are administered by lead agencies, whether one of the participating agencies or an independent organization, and have independent boards of directors, executive directors, and support staff, and are independent nonprofit organizations.

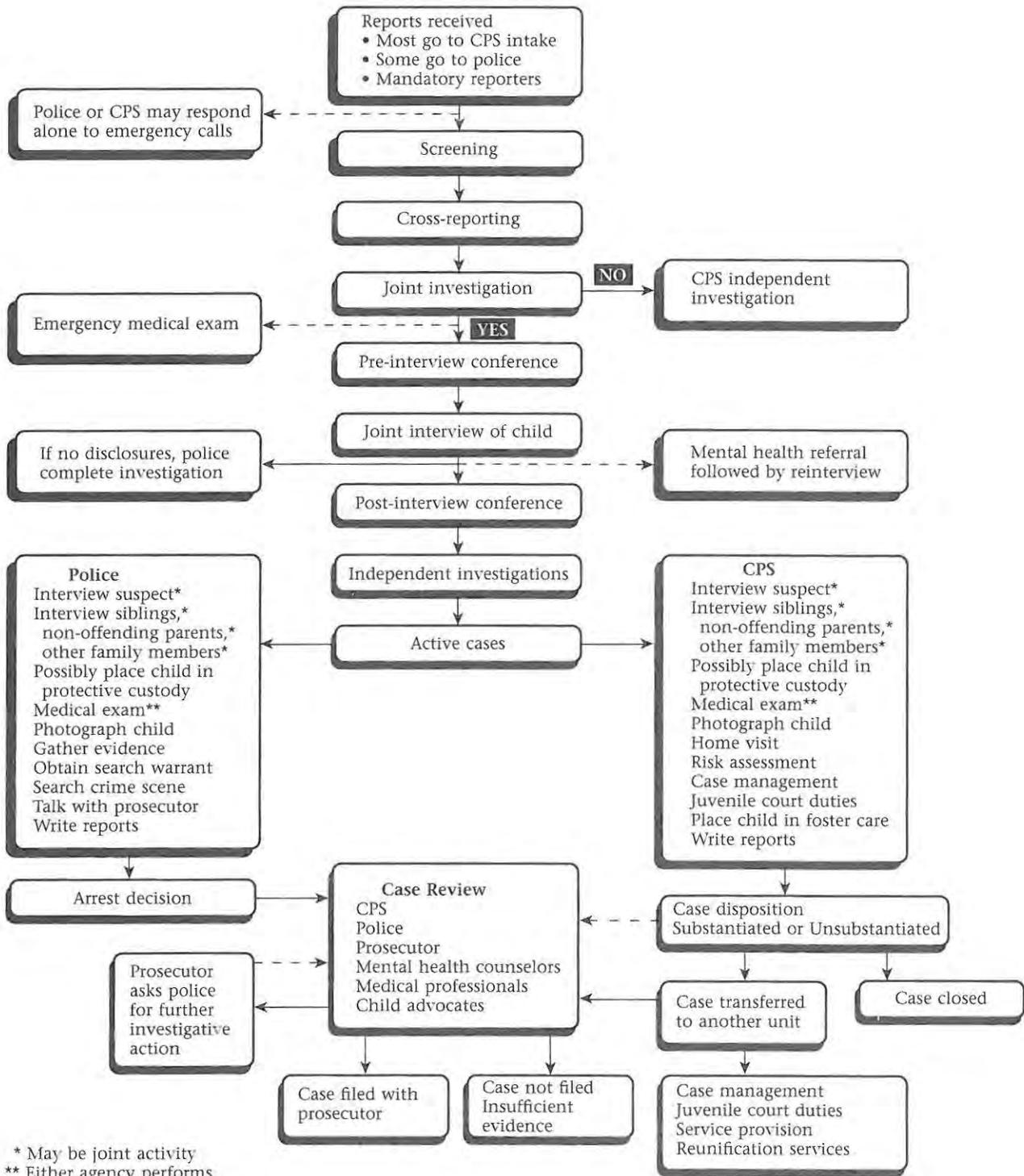


A CAC board of directors should include agency representatives from law enforcement, CPS, the prosecutor's office, the courts, mental health, and medicine, as well as business leaders, elected officials, and other child advocacy organizations. The full-time executive director coordinates CAC programs, hires and supervises administrative and support staff, and conducts fundraising. The director's responsibilities also should include acting as a liaison to the participating agencies, chairing staff and policy planning meetings, preparing progress reports, and scheduling case review meetings.

If space is available, CACs can house a cadre of medical personnel, mental health therapists, child advocates or child victim witness coordinators, and volunteers to assist the police and CPS investigations and work with the victims and their families. Child victim-witness advocates, medical personnel, therapists, volunteer coordinators, financial managers, and support staff may be employed by the CAC program. CACs may even want to expand their roles to include interviewing all child criminal witnesses, even those not involved in child maltreatment cases.



**Figure 1**  
**Typical Case Progression in Joint Investigations**





## Conclusions

This research examined how joint law enforcement and CPS investigations of child maltreatment can be conducted, and presented model programs to improve interagency cooperation. This report makes recommendations for improving multidisciplinary investigations and reducing the trauma of repeated interviews and inefficient investigations on victims and their families.

Undesirable consequences may result from independent CPS and law enforcement investigations that could have been conducted jointly. First, the child inevitably will be interviewed numerous times by different investigators asking for the same information, thus creating unnecessary stress on the child and possibly leading to inconsistencies in his or her statements and inconsistent actions by the agencies. In addition, when CPS workers interview victims and other principals without the police present, they cannot be expected to preserve the chain of evidence, properly conduct a crime scene search, or Mirandize the perpetrator, thereby jeopardizing the opportunity to file criminal charges against a child abuser. Law enforcement investigators, on the other hand, may not be prepared to interview young sexual abuse victims in a developmentally appropriate manner, obtain accurate information, assess the risk to other siblings in the family, or determine the relationships of children and adults in the household. Thus, police acting alone may arrest suspects in lieu of removing the child; but perpetrators often are subsequently released, exposing the child to further victimization.

As noted by the Attorney General's Task Force on Family Violence (1984):

No agency can be successful working in isolation when it involves effective investigations of child maltreatment. Each participant must recognize the interrelationship among the legal, social/psychological services, and health responses to child abuse (p. 15).

This research was conducted to respond to these issues. The joint investigation models presented in this report are directed to resolving problems of coordination and cooperation between two public agencies concerned with helping child victims of abuse.

These research findings are compatible with those found in similar research studies of child abuse investigations. Joint law enforcement and child protective services investigations can be quite effective when they are conducted using the skills and procedures from both disciplines.



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# Joint Investigation Training Resources

The following list of joint child abuse training resources is provided for jurisdictions that would like to initiate joint training. Many local jurisdictions and universities are not listed that provide training and technical assistance and serve as models within their states or regions. The listing does not represent an endorsement, nor is this list comprehensive.

## Multidisciplinary Training

### ACTION for Child Protection:

Training for law enforcement officers and social workers  
4724 Park Road, Suite C  
Charlotte, NC 28209  
(704) 529-1080

### M/CAP:

Training and technical assistance for multidisciplinary teams working in investigations, primarily of missing and exploited children: Covers many issues involved in intrafamilial child abuse: examples of classes are "Investigation of Incest," "Forensic Considerations in Child Sexual Abuse Cases," "Interviewing Child Victims of Sexual Assault," and "Injury Reconstruction." Sponsored by Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice.

Public Administration Services  
2101 Wilson Blvd. Suite 135  
Arlington, VA 22201-3052  
(703) 516-6137

### National Resource Center on Child Sexual Abuse:

Training can be custom designed for law enforcement officials, attorneys, prosecutors, therapists, CPS, social workers, doctors, and nurses.

107 Lincoln Street  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(205) 534-6868

### Technical Assistance and Regional Training in Child Abuse and Exploitation:

Investigation techniques training for multidisciplinary teams or for law enforcement, and training to develop action plans or team protocols for law enforcement, CPS, prosecutor, and emergency room nurses.

Sponsored by Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention,



U.S. Department of Justice.  
Fox Valley Technical College  
1825 N. Bluemound Drive  
P.O. Box 2277  
Appleton, WI 54913-2277  
(800) 648-4966

## **Training For Law Enforcement and Prosecutors**

### **Police Foundation**

For over a quarter century, the foundation has conducted research and provided technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies to develop more effective policing strategies. The foundation provides a broad spectrum of information and training services to the nation's police departments.

### **Police Foundation**

1001 22nd Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 833-1460 FAX: (202) 659-9149

### **American Prosecutors Research Institute:**

Offers four types of training for prosecutors and law enforcement investigators, including basic training for child abuse prosecutors, investigation and prosecution of child fatalities, investigation and prosecution of parental abduction, and custom training available to states.

### **National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse**

99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 739-0321

## **Conferences and Colloquiums**

### **American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children**

407 S. Dearborn, Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60605  
(312) 554-0166

### **National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect**

National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information  
(800) FYI-3366

National Conference on Children and the Law  
American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law  
1800 M Street, NW, Suite 200S  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 331-2250

National Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse  
(sponsored by National Resource Center on Child Sexual Abuse)  
The National Children's Advocacy Center  
Symposium Office  
2204 Whitesburg Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(205) 534-1328

## Training Aids

*Child Abuse: A Police Guide* A pocket guide; 2nd printing, 1990  
by Douglas Besharov  
Police Foundation (202) 833-1460 or the American Bar Association (202) 331-2250

*Colorado's Child Abuse Investigation: A Team Approach*, revised 1991  
A state-specific joint investigation trainer's manual curriculum that could be adapted for use by other states.

*Guidelines for Cooperation between Law Enforcement and Child Protective Service*  
Colorado Department of Social Services and Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy  
Department of Social Services  
1575 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203-1714  
(303) 894-7747

*Evidence in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases*, second edition, 2 volumes  
by Professor John E.B. Meyers  
1992, 1994 supplement (reference #5-6941)  
Wiley Law Publications  
7222 Commerce Center Drive, Suite 240  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919-9810  
(800) 879-4539



Also by John Meyers: "The Newest Defense in Child Sexual Abuse Litigation: Attack the Interviewer. Part Two of Two," *Violence Update* 1 (May 1991).

*Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse*, second edition, 1993

American Prosecutors Research Institute  
National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse  
99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 739-0321

*Investigative Interviewing Techniques in Child Sexual Abuse Cases*

Videotape Series  
Sage Publications, Inc.  
2455 Teller Road  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320-2218  
(805) 499-9774

*Successful Team Investigations: CPS and Law Enforcement Cooperation* Five audio-cassette tapes:

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children  
407 S. Dearborn, Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60605  
(312) 554-0166

*Joint Investigations of Child Abuse: Report of a Symposium*

The User Manual Series: The following titles are included in this free series:

*A Coordinated Response to Child Abuse and Neglect: A Basic Manual*  
Child Protective Services: A Guide for Caseworkers  
The Role of Law Enforcement in the Response to Child Abuse and Neglect  
Child Sexual Abuse: Intervention and Treatment Issues  
*Working with the Courts in Child Protection*

Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information  
National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
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The first three manuals in the user's series listed above will be developed into trainer's manuals by the National Resource Center on Child Abuse and Neglect

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