

ABSTRACT

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTERVIEW CENTER (MDIC) FORENSIC INTERVIEW AND ITS ROLE IN THE CONVICTION OF THE PERPETRATOR

The purpose of this study was to examine child sexual abuse cases that involved an MDIC forensic interview. The study focused on peripheral events that can impact the credibility of the forensic interview and re-traumatize the child victim. A sample of 71 child sexual abuse victim cases from October 2001 to October 2002, in which an MDIC interview was conducted was compared with a sample of cases from the previous year, prior to the implementation of the MDIC program. All cases were drawn from the Fresno County District Attorney's office records. Overall results showed the majority of cases that involved an MDIC interview had a higher rate of the perpetrator making a plea of guilty. The investigator of this study concluded that the data did not show that the MDIC forensic interview alone impacted the conviction rate due to the numerous external variables that affect the outcome of each case.

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