



CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIALS PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT TOOL (formerly child pornography)

This protocol development tool may be used as a guide when developing a protocol for your local jurisdiction and should not be viewed as all encompassing. This tool was developed as a resource by National Children's Alliance (NCA) Collaborative Work Group (CWG) with focus on Child Sexual Abuse Materials and Exploitation. The term child sexual abuse materials is used in place of child pornography to be more victim-centered. Federal and state statutes still refer to the crime as child pornography and that may also be referenced throughout this document

I. LEGAL REFERENCE

- A. Reference any local or state law related to child pornography
- B. Federal law can be listed here as well

Federal law prohibits the production, distribution, reception, and possession of an image of child pornography using or affecting any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce (See 18 U.S.C. §2251; 18 U.S.C §2252; 18 U.S.C §2252A). <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos/citizens-guide-us-federal-law-child-pornography>

II. MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT)

- A. Any discovered images of child sexual abuse victims, as defined as child pornography by state statute and/or federal law shall be reported to (not necessarily in the order below):
 - 1. Local Law Enforcement
 - 2. State Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Team
 - 3. Federal law enforcement (depending on jurisdiction)
 - 4. Children's Advocacy Center/Multidisciplinary Team
 - 5. Child Protective services
 - 6. State's Attorney's/District Attorney's Office
 - 7. Others as defined by state statute, federal law, or local protocols

III. INVESTIGATIONS

- A. Identify and locate victim
 - 1. Evaluate need for medical treatment Discuss role of MDT
 - 2. Minimal facts interview to conduct safety assessment
 - 3. Provide crisis intervention
- B. Determine when incident(s) occurred, if possible
- C. Determine extent of abuse and abuse images, including other victims
- D. Contact additional resources as needed
 - 1. Other law enforcement jurisdictions
 - 2. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
 - 3. Children's Advocacy Center and MDT, including child protective services history

IV. FORENSIC INTERVIEW

- A. Coordinate forensic interview, if appropriate
 - 1. Discuss who will conduct interview (CAC, FBI, HSI, other)
 - 2. Identify time/location for interview (CAC unless circumstance dictate otherwise)
- B. Conduct interview according to trained protocol
 - 1. Discuss if/when/how evidence will be presented, ensure images are cleansed
 - 2. Ask questions about technology
 - Apps
 - Devices used
 - Video
 - PINS



Passwords Platforms Chats Other

- C. Determine distribution/retention of recorded interview
1. Discuss which law enforcement will retain recording - local, federal partner, states, other
 2. Decide where recording is kept and for how long

V. EVIDENCE COLLECTION (if crime scene identified)

- A. Ensure investigating law enforcement gathers evidence and maintains custody
- B. Share knowledge of evidence, when appropriate, with child protective services for safety of the child.
- C. Recreate the crime scene through pictures and schematic drawings, if possible
- D. Law Enforcement Response
- Gather victim information & background, including living arrangements, friends, family and "enemies"
 - Conduct search warrants when evidence dictates
 - Draft preservation letters for technology evidence
 - Interview collateral contacts
 - Collect technology evidence (cell phone, computer, Gaming systems, Smart Watches, Cameras, Printers) and preserve in accordance with digital evidence procedures (ie..airplane mode, farady bag)
- E. Medical Evidence
1. Acute Abuse (abuse happened less than 120 hours ago) – Sexual Abuse Forensic Exam (SAFE) Examination for evidence collection
 2. Chronic Abuse (abuse happened more than 120 hours ago) – Well-being examination to ensure overall health of the child, including testing for sexually transmitted infections & pregnancy
 3. Digital evidence: review & document apps- Instagram, Tik Tok, Snapchat, Twitter Facebook etc.. to include passwords and screen names

VI. ONGOING SERVICES

- A. Advocacy Services
1. Identify who will provide initial services and ongoing services
 2. Identify who will provide court preparation and court accompaniment
- B. Mental Health
1. Ensure initial contact with provider
 2. Identify evidence-based, trauma-informed services
 3. Outline referral protocol for crisis intervention and long term care
- C. Reunification
1. Coordinate travel arrangements, as needed
 2. Provide lodging, if necessary

VII. OTHER RESOURCES

- A. NCMEC (Team Hope), <http://www.missingkids.org>
- B. National Children's Alliance, <https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org>
- C. Regional CACs
1. Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center, mrcac.org
 2. Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center, www.nrcac.org
 3. Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center, www.srcac.org
 4. Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center, <http://www.westernregionalcac.org>