

**MODULE V: INVESTIGATIVE
PROCESSES IN FAMILY-
CENTERED CHILD
PROTECTIVE SERVICES**



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AGENDA

- Introductions
- What are Investigative Processes?
- Principles of Investigative Processes
- Planning the Investigation
- Conducting the Investigation
- Action Planning and Closure



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WIIFM?

What is in it for me?

- After reviewing the competencies, please identify three learning needs.



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INVESTIGATIONS

- Highly-structured fact-finding processes
- Intended to determine:
 - If serious maltreatment exists
 - If immediate legal intervention is needed to ensure child's safety
 - If there is high risk of serious harm in the future



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INVESTIGATIONS *CONTINUED*

- Systematically collect relevant information.
- Define ...
 - Who is interviewed and in what order
 - When / Where
 - How questions are asked
 - Use of collaterals
 - Strategies
 - How to document
- Protect physical evidence



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INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES



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PRINCIPLES OF THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

A. Engaging the Family



PRINCIPLES OF THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

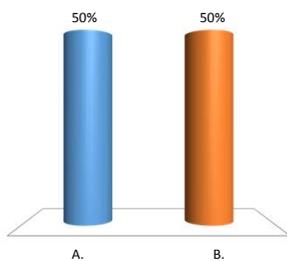
A. Engaging the Family

B. Respecting Parental Rights



An individual's right to be free from unwarranted search and seizure applies to child protective services investigations.

- A. True
- B. False



REMINDER

- The Fourth Amendment protects citizens from unreasonable search and seizure.
- The 14th Amendment requires due process.



CASE SITUATIONS

What should the Child Welfare Professional do?



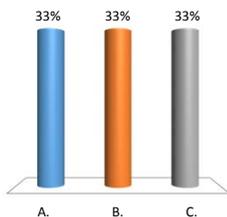
CASE SCENARIO #1

The Reynolds Family



What should the Child Welfare Professional do in the Reynold's case?

- A. Check with the mother's employer to verify she was there.
- B. Contact the six-year-old's school for information on health and cleanliness.
- C. Discuss the situation with the mother.



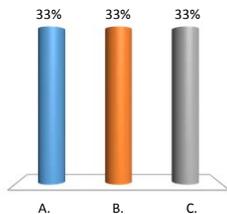
CASE SCENARIO #2

Lloyd



What should the Child Welfare Professional do in Lloyd's case?

- A. Contact the clinic about the pink eye and regular checkups.
- B. Go to the home and see the mother and Lloyd.
- C. Go to the school to see Lloyd.



CASE SCENARIO #3

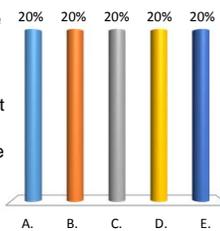
Daryll



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What should the Child Welfare Professional do in Daryll's case?

- A. Call the police then go and wait at the home.
- B. Call the police to the home and go find out information.
- C. Call the police, remain on the front porch and attempt to calm the woman.
- D. Go in the home to calm the woman and assess the safety of the child.
- E. Either A or C



Option	Percentage
A.	20%
B.	20%
C.	20%
D.	20%
E.	20%



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CASE SCENARIO #5

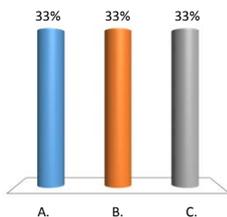
Jessica



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What should the Child Welfare Professional do in Jessica's case?

- A. Go immediately to the home to confront the father and wait for Jessica.
- B. Go to the school to interview Jessica.
- C. Ask police to meet you at the home to confront the father; remove Jessica from the home.



PRINCIPLES OF THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

- A. Engaging the Family
- B. Respecting Parental Rights
- C. Collaboration**



BENEFITS OF COLLABORATION

- Shares information
- Minimizes the number of interviews of the alleged child victim
- Assures proper sequence of investigative activities
- Enhances decision-making



INTER-DISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION



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PRINCIPLES OF THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

- A. Engaging the Family
- B. Respecting Parental Rights
- C. Collaboration
- D. Gather Complete Detailed Information**



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DAVIS INTAKE – PART ONE

Please respond to the following...



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DAVIS INTAKE – PART TWO

Please respond to the following...



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1. What information should be gathered?



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2. What are the cultural issues to be addressed?



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3. Who should be interviewed and why?



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4. Which community team members should be involved?



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5. Who will complete which tasks?



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6. How will the interviews be sequenced?



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7. How will the child's safety be ensured?



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8. Where would the interviews take place?



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9. Who will be present during the interview?



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10. How would you plan for your own safety?



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UNIQUE FEATURES FOR INVESTIGATING

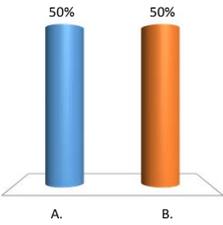
- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse



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Investigating neglect often requires the Child Welfare Professional to rely more on collateral sources and observation of the environment than direct interviews with the child.

A. True
B. False

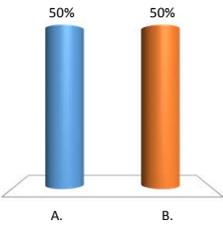


Option	Percentage
A.	50%
B.	50%

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The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) prohibits medical professionals from giving child protection agencies medical information about a child victim without the parents' consent.

A. True
B. False

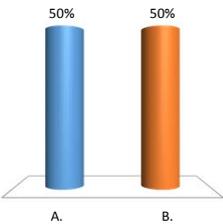


Option	Percentage
A.	50%
B.	50%

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In a two-parent home, one parent is usually responsible for neglect.

A. True
B. False

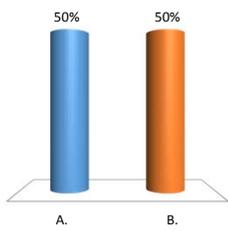


Option	Percentage
A.	50%
B.	50%

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Because it is potentially embarrassing and anxiety provoking for a child, the Child Welfare Professional should not disrobe a child to ascertain the extent of injuries.

A. True
B. False

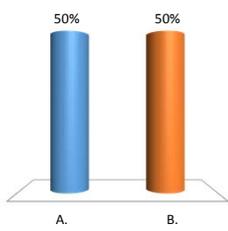


Option	Percentage
A.	50%
B.	50%

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Photographing a child's injuries outside a police or medical facility does not meet the standard to make a case for physical abuse.

A. True
B. False

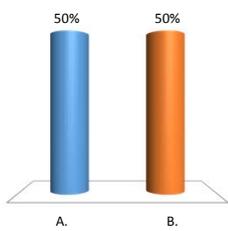


Option	Percentage
A.	50%
B.	50%

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A Child Welfare Professional should observe and assess the circumstances where a physical injury allegedly occurred to ascertain if the parent's explanation of the injury is plausible.

A. True
B. False

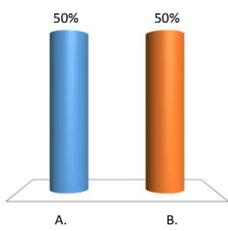


Option	Percentage
A.	50%
B.	50%

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Sexual abuse that involves penetration of a young girl's vagina usually results in physical evidence.

A. True
B. False

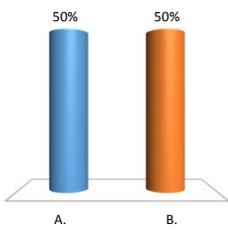


Option	Percentage
A.	50%
B.	50%

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To prevent the likelihood of the child recanting, the interviews should be conducted as quickly as possible.

A. True
B. False

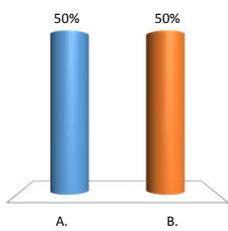


Option	Percentage
A.	50%
B.	50%

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An alleged perpetrator of sexual abuse should be interviewed first to get his story on record.

A. True
B. False



Option	Percentage
A.	50%
B.	50%

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INTERVIEWING THE ALLEGED CHILD VICTIM

Goals:

- To maximize information obtained
- To minimize distress
- To maintain the integrity of the process



INTERVIEWING SIBLINGS

Purpose:

- To determine what they know; can they corroborate?
- To determine whether they have been maltreated



INTERVIEWING THE NON-OFFENDING PARENT

Purpose:

- To gather accurate, detailed information
- To ascertain if that person can support and protect alleged child victim
- To determine if person participated or was afraid to intervene
- To encourage parent to believe and support child if maltreatment occurred



INTERVIEWING THE ALLEGED PERPETRATOR

Purpose:

- To find out what happened to the child and how
- To engage the alleged perpetrator in disclosure and safety planning
- To convince the person to temporarily leave the home, if necessary



INTERVIEWING WITH COLLATERAL SOURCES

Purpose:

- To gather additional information, insights and observations



DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

- Consider new information as it becomes available
- Assess, analyze, hypothesize and test
- Make decisions with supervisory support



CLOSING THE INVESTIGATION

- Complete within 30 working days; close or open for ongoing services
- Provide the notice of department finding
- If safety plan needed, ensure continuation is possible
- Link the family with immediate services
- Provide information to ongoing service providers, if opened



**Caseworker Core Module V:
Investigation Processes in Family-Centered Child
Protective Services**

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Adapted, with permission, for the
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**See You
at the
Learning Lab!**