

# Understanding Child Sexual Abuse and the Technology Facilitated Compliant Victim<sup>©</sup>

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## Understanding Child Sexual Abuse and the Technology Facilitated Compliant Victim ©

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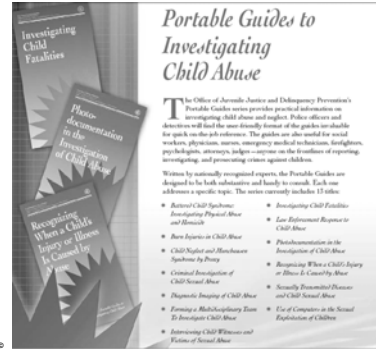
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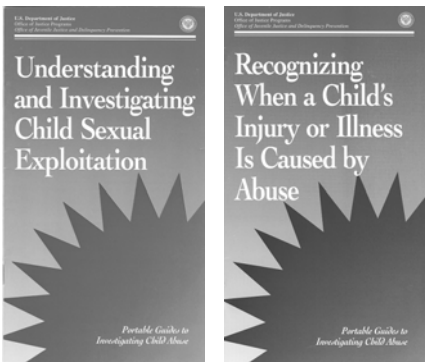


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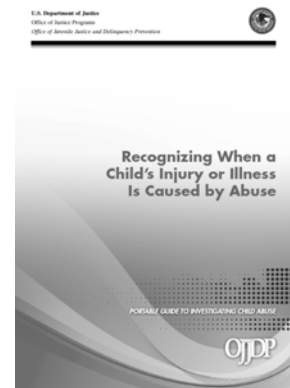
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**Commanding Officer  
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## **Public Perception of Child Sexual Abuse Investigations**

The stranger



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## **Child Sexual Abuse Crimes**

### *Child Sexual Abuse*

- Within the family

### *Child Sexual Exploitation*

- Primarily outside the family
- Technology facilitated
- Multiple victims
- Child pornography

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## **Investigating Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation**

*Following the explosion of the Internet –*

- Child molesters fully embraced utilizing the Internet
- A new or a different type of child molester appeared
- A new or a different type of child sexual exploitation victim appeared – the Technology Related Compliant Victim

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## **Issue – Mixed Definitions of Terms**

*What do we call a young person who has been sexually abused as the result of a technology facilitated crime – ?*

- Seduced ?
- Manipulated ?
- For this presentation I have identified this victim as a Compliant Victim and will explain the unique circumstances of this type of child abuse.....

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## **Issue – Mixed Definitions of Terms**

### *Public perception of Child Sexual Abuse*

- Many people have a mental image of a person age 12 or younger as the victim

*What do we call a 12 year old female – ?*

- Child ?
- Juvenile ?
- Minor ?
- Adolescent ?
- Tween ?

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## Teens / Tweens – Generally

- Lack good decision making abilities
- Often use poor judgment
- Tend to be impulsive
- Sometimes rebellious
- Working on developing their own unique social needs
- Very susceptible to peer pressure

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## Teens / Tweens – Generally

- Have learned to manipulate their environment to get what they want
- Possess a normal sexual curiosity
- Consider themselves invincible – Live fearless lives

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ???

*Teens or tweens who cooperate and / or participate in their own victimization*

- The victim has developed intense and passionate feelings for the molester
- Even so, they are legally unable to give consent
- Child sexual exploitation

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

- Some victims become compliant because of the molester’s skill in making the victim see the relationship as a real one that is based on love and not fantasy
- The victim truly believes that the molester cares about them

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

### *Issues*

- The public idealistically prefers to perceive children as being pure and innocent rather than human beings with human needs....

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

- Because of their extensive communication it is very misleading to characterize the molester of this type of victim as a “stranger”



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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

### *Issues – continued*

- Difficult for the Judge / Jury to understand or be sympathetic to this perceived type of non-innocent victimization....

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## What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

### *Issues – continued*

- Important for the prosecutor to clarify the grooming process of the victim with a MDT Therapist – Expert witness in order to explain the victim’s complicity with the molester

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim



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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

The ADULT MOLESTER, while often pretending to be somewhat younger, trolls the Internet seeking a victim who is troubled or has low self esteem

- The selected victim is commonly a female
- He frequently identifies his potential victim from postings/photos on social network sites....

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He spends an enormous amount of time talking with the victim initially online and then later utilizing a cell phone
- He appears kind, loving and tender
- He is an exceptional listener and then shares personal things such as “I’ve never told anyone this before but ....”
- He is constantly assessing her to make sure that he is accepted....

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He never shows anger or displeasure
- He makes himself appear trustworthy
- He compliments her repeatedly, especially in those areas of low self esteem
- He makes her believe that the universe revolves around her
- He encourages her to create a private email account and/or point of contact....

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## Snapshot – Smart phones



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## Forensic Interview – Specific Questions for the Technology Related Compliant Victim

- Do you have a private email account?
- Do you have more than....(FIVE)?
- Do you have an online profile ?
- Do you have more than....(FIVE)?
- Where are they posted....

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- As part of the manipulation he gives her the illusion of control
- He unexpectedly sends her e-cards or gifts

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- The victim comes to believe that he is wonderful and truly cares about her
- He becomes her best friend – bff
- He attempts to isolate her from others
- He belittles her home life, parents, teachers and all of their rules
- He tells her that if she lived with him – she could stay out late, smoke, drink or use drugs

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He constantly tells her that she is beautiful and he loves her
- He slowly becomes sexual professing it as a true expression of their love
- He initially encourages her “to just talk with him” about sex
- He then sends her explicit photos and videos, as validation, of older men and younger girls “hooking up” ....

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He disrobes via the web-cam or in photos so she can see the “real him”
  
- He encourages her to disrobe for him in photos or via web-cam so he can see “how beautiful she is”

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He encourages her to meet him at a hotel – so they can finally be together alone
- In love, they finally meet for a “date” which includes sex....

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## Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He almost never uses threats, force, coercion or abduction to sexually abuse the victim
- The “seduced” victim has actively cooperated with the molester and has become compliant in her own abuse

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## Compliant Victims Rarely Disclose their Abuse

- Accident
- Medical – Pregnancy, STD (STI)
- Jealousy – Molester approaches the victim’s friend or a younger sibling
- Anger – When the relationship ends
- Most compliant victims will deny their victimization and may even be hostile when confronted during an investigation

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## Compliant Victim – Conclusion

- Some people may object to the use of the term compliant victim, especially those individuals who cannot comprehend that a teen or tween can be willingly compliant in their own sexual abuse
- However, this unique type of sexual victimization must be candidly or frankly addressed – Don’t assume that you understand their “seduced” world

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# Technology Dangers Update!

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## Technology Facilitated Dangers for Children

- Social networking sites...
- facebook.com
- “Facebook: Is it still cool with Young People?” – VIRTUS Online
- facebook.com – Frequently used as a conduit to connect with other social networking sites/apps
- yoName.com – social networks

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## Technology Facilitated Dangers for Children

- Social networking sites...
- Avatars – Virtual Communities with chat feature

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## Technology Facilitated Dangers for Children

- Social networking sites...
- Virtual Gaming sites with chat feature

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## Mobile Technology Facilitated Dangers for Children

- Social networking sites...
- Smartphone apps
- Instagram.com – photo and video sharing



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## Mobile Technology Facilitated Dangers for Children

- Social networking sites...
- Smartphone apps
- Secret



Secret is an app that allows users to share short anonymous messages, primarily within a specific circle of "trusted" friends

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## Mobile Technology Facilitated Dangers for Children

- Social networking sites...
- Smartphone apps
- Whisper



Whisper is an app which allows users to send short public messages anonymously and receive replies. Users post messages which are displayed as text superimposed over an image, which is similar to a greeting card

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## Mobile Technology Facilitated Dangers for Children

- Social networking sites...
- Smartphone apps
- Yik Yak



Yik Yak is an app that allows anyone to post anything without attaching themselves to a username. It doesn't even require a password to log in. Yik Yak is similar to Twitter but without the ability to post photos. It is extremely localized; anyone within 1.5 miles of a message can read the post. The use of Yik Yak in the middle of a high-school cafeteria could result in students within the cafeteria teasing or even threatening someone else nearby with the bully remaining anonymous.

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## Mobile Technology Facilitated Dangers for Children

- Social networking sites...
- Smartphone apps
- Highlight



Highlight is an app that runs quietly in the background of a smartphone, continuously providing and also sharing information about the people nearby – about 100 yards away. When one meets someone who is also running Highlight, the two users may be able to see what they have in common. Highlight has been criticized for its ability to disclose private social networking information to strangers.

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## Mobile Technology Facilitated Dangers for Children

- Social networking sites...
- Smartphone apps
- Tinder



Tinder is a location based app that gathers nearby, one mile, Tinder user's 500 character profile information in an attempt to match individual's who are likely to be compatible. The app allows one to anonymously like or pass by swiping or tapping. If two users like each other then it results in a "match" and Tinder introduces the two users and opens a chat. Tinder has been criticized as being a haven for ultimately creepy exchanges.

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## Mobile Technology Facilitated Dangers for Children

- Social networking sites...
- Smartphone apps
- Happn



Happn is a location app that allows you to find a person that you once crossed paths with and wished you had said Hello. Both parties must have the app and both must agree that they are interested in talking

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**Technology continues to rapidly change. Parents, teachers and all of us who are charged with protecting children must continue our efforts to stay abreast of the many new programs and latest apps that may be used by young people and child molesters seeking to manipulate and sexual abuse children**

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# Thank you !

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