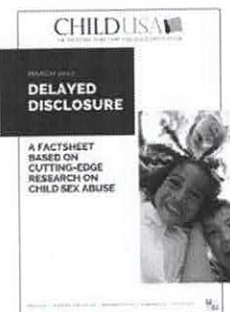


## REALITY CHECK: THE NORMALCY OF DELAYED DISCLOSURE

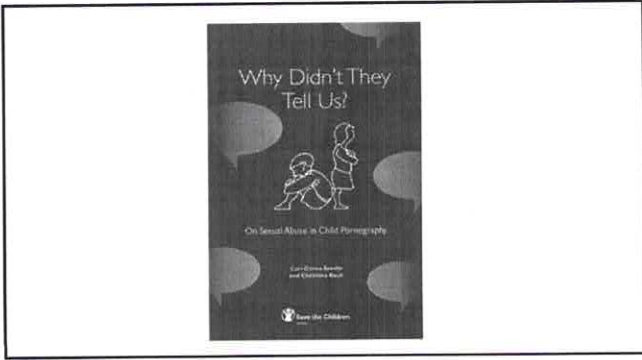
Sharon W. Cooper, MD FAAP  
Developmental and Forensic Pediatrics, PA  
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill  
School of Medicine

### RECOGNIZE

1. Delayed disclosure has nothing to do with the skill of the forensic examiner.
2. Delayed disclosure is now a recognized fact and should always be part of foundation testimony in child sexual abuse cases
3. Research has shown that the average age of disclosure of **child sexual abuse is 52 years of age.**



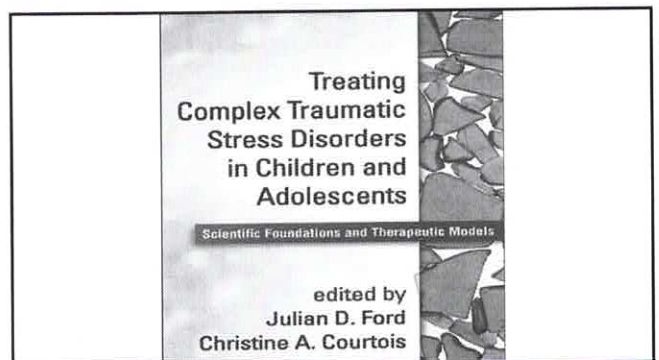
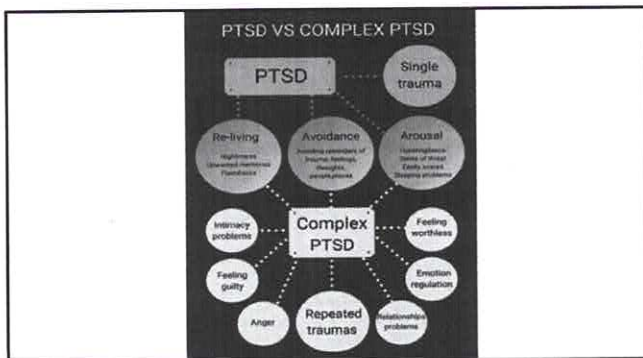
CHILDREN	ADULTS
<p>1. <b>Introduction:</b> The purpose of this study was to explore the experiences of children and young people who have been sexually abused and to identify the factors that influence their disclosure of the abuse.</p> <p>2. <b>Aims:</b> The study aimed to explore the experiences of children and young people who have been sexually abused and to identify the factors that influence their disclosure of the abuse.</p> <p>3. <b>Method:</b> The study used a qualitative approach, involving semi-structured interviews with 12 children and young people who had been sexually abused.</p> <p>4. <b>Results:</b> The study found that children and young people who have been sexually abused often experience a range of difficulties, including emotional, behavioural, and academic problems. Disclosure of the abuse was often delayed and was influenced by a range of factors, including fear, shame, and lack of support.</p> <p>5. <b>Conclusion:</b> The study highlights the need for a multi-agency approach to the support of children and young people who have been sexually abused, and the importance of ensuring that they are given the opportunity to be heard.</p>	<p>1. <b>Introduction:</b> The purpose of this study was to explore the experiences of adults who have been sexually abused and to identify the factors that influence their disclosure of the abuse.</p> <p>2. <b>Aims:</b> The study aimed to explore the experiences of adults who have been sexually abused and to identify the factors that influence their disclosure of the abuse.</p> <p>3. <b>Method:</b> The study used a qualitative approach, involving semi-structured interviews with 12 adults who had been sexually abused.</p> <p>4. <b>Results:</b> The study found that adults who have been sexually abused often experience a range of difficulties, including emotional, behavioural, and academic problems. Disclosure of the abuse was often delayed and was influenced by a range of factors, including fear, shame, and lack of support.</p> <p>5. <b>Conclusion:</b> The study highlights the need for a multi-agency approach to the support of adults who have been sexually abused, and the importance of ensuring that they are given the opportunity to be heard.</p>

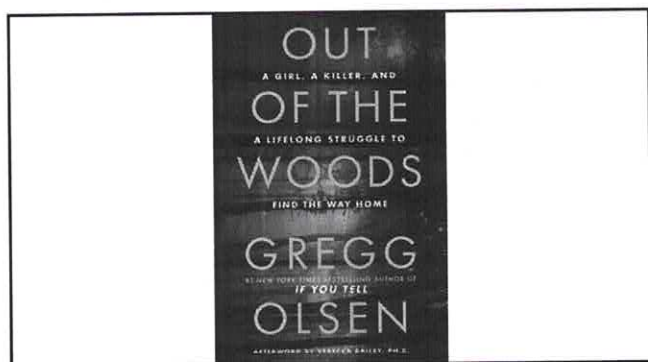
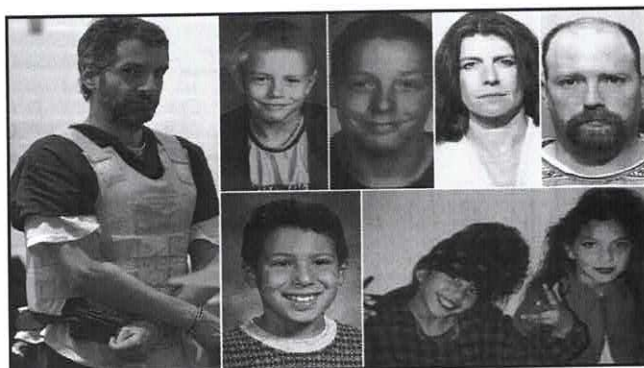
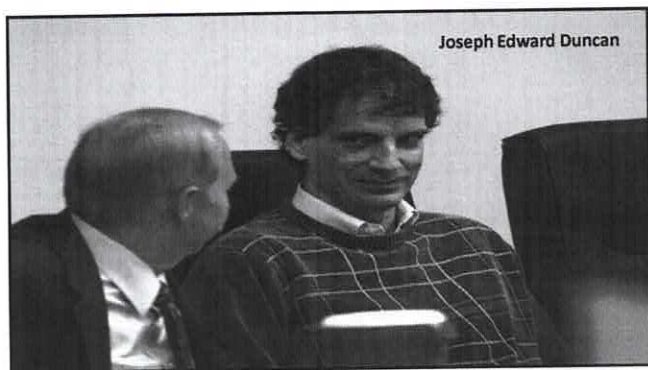


CONSIDER CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE,  
EXPLOITATION AND DELAYED  
DISCLOSURE



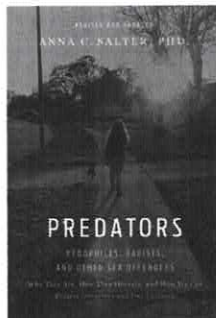
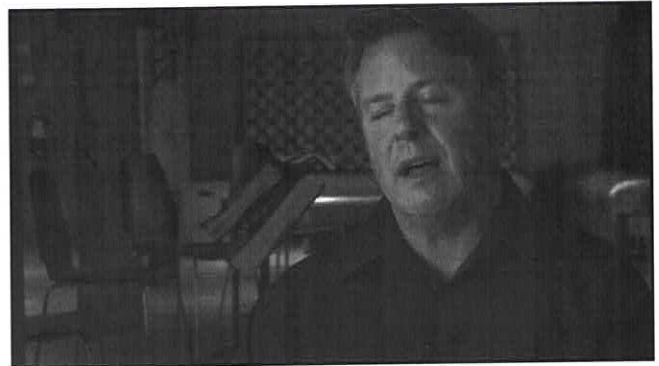
## The Impact of Complex PTSD on Disclosure





## FAMILIAL VERSUS ACQUAINTANCE OFFENDER(S)

UNDERSTANDING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DYNAMICS OF PROTECTION OF THE  
OFFENDER, "CIRCLING THE WAGON" DYNAMIC, THE LAW OF SELF PRESERVATION,  
AND THE IMPACT OF INTERGENERATIONAL FAMILIAL VICTIMIZATION



## STAFF SEDUCTIONS (in *Predators* by Anna Salter, 2003)

- "In going through the records, it was striking how different these cases look from the offender's point of view as opposed to the staff members. Take, for example, the young correctional officer who was caught having sex with an imprisoned gang member. She was fired and prosecuted but is still in love with the inmate, and she still writes him. He tells me the story from his point of view:
- As soon as she came, I knew I had her. I was working out in the gym, and I winked at her. She smiled, and I thought "I got her".
- Of course, the young officer did not know anything had begun, but the inmate knew what he was talking about. He played out his hand, flirting with her slowly and carefully, taking progressively more liberties. Finally, one day, he told her he wanted to write her a letter. She said, "I'll get in trouble for it". Wrong answer.

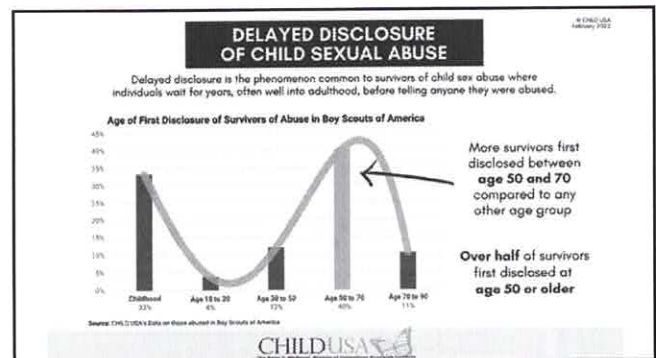
## CONSIDER OFFENDER BEHAVIORS



## MANIPULATION

- Parent Child Role Reversal (in addressing "who's at fault"?)
- Strategies Promoted by the Offender on Keeping Secrets
- The Impact of Images and Blackmail of Victims
- The Role of Family Violence in Silencing Victims

## YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATION ABUSE



## WHY DIDN'T CHILDREN TELL?



## Journal of INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Interpersonal violence and its  
consequences, including the treatment  
of victims and offenders

Volume 29, Number 15  
May 2014

### Acquaintance Molestation and Youth-Serving Organizations

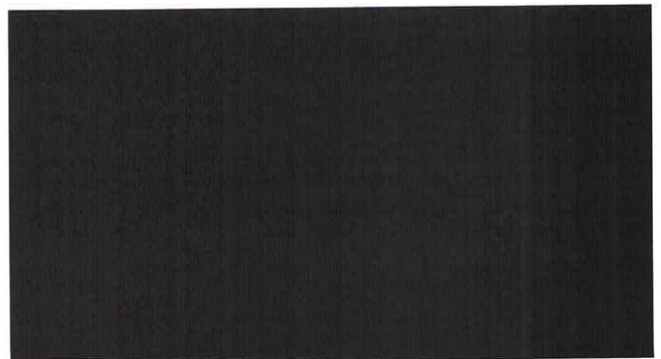
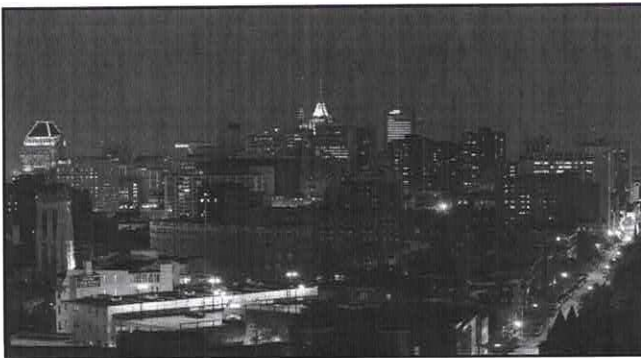
Kenneth V. Lanning, MS, and Park  
Dietz, MD, MPH, PhD

View all authors and affiliations

Volume 29, Issue 15

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260514532360>

S



## The Use of Images During Forensic Interviews of Children Who Have Been Sexually Abused

By Pete Singer and Rita Farrell

©2023 Zero Abuse Project. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice or grant-making component. This project was supported by Award No. 2019-CI-FX-K006 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice.

## BE MINDFUL OF THE DELAYED DISCLOSURE OF IMAGE PRODUCTION

## REVISE EXPECTATIONS

When CSAM is present in an investigation, research now affirms that exposing victims to the visual contraband does not provide significantly more information than the image or video itself, but it CAN cause significantly more traumatization to the victim.

Recent research has also shown that when forensic interviewers are exposed to CSAM content, there is additional traumatic impact for these professionals and most CACs do not have focused intervention for this specific type of traumatic stress.

## THE CLOAK OF NOTARIETY

The case of a 13-year-old amateur gymnast and her mother who reported having experienced a sexual assault by Nassar to a sheriff's deputy and after the deputy spoke with Dr. Nassar, who actually gave him a copy of a handout regarding his "procedures" that he would share at "national and international meetings", the deputy discounted the victim's disclosure until much later when Nassar was formally charged as a multivictim sex offender.

## CONSIDER THE LANDMARK CASE OF LARRY NASSAR



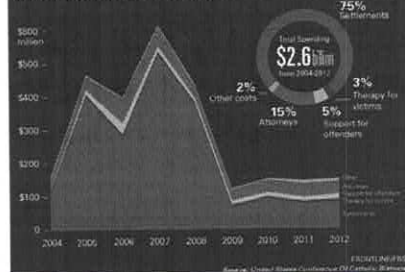
## Nassar's HISTORY of sexual abuse

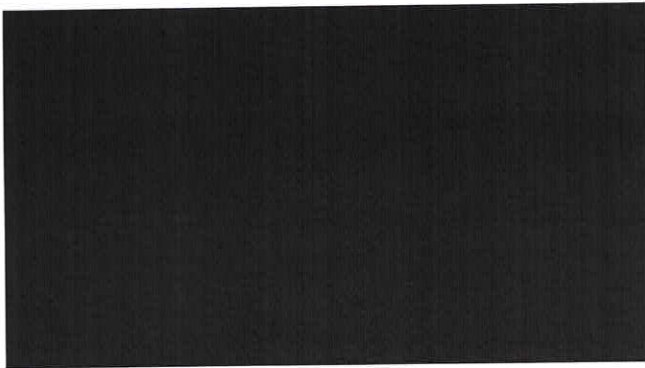


### • U.S. News

• US government agrees to \$138.7M settlement over FBI's botching of Larry Nassar assault allegations

## What sexual abuse allegations have cost the U.S. Catholic Church





## Delayed Disclosure CHILD USA Fact Sheet 2020

- The average age of disclosure of child sexual abuse is 52 years of age.
- Large numbers of subjects have been studied in national and international research supporting this exceedingly important data.
- Highlight Hanson et al ( Child Abuse & Neglect 1999) – “82.9% did not report any of the rapes they experienced during childhood”; Lahtinen et al ( Child Abuse & Neglect 2018) – Showing that, in a very large population study (N=11364), 48% of children who reported sexual abuse only disclosed to a friend and 26% disclosed to an adult.

### CHILD USA Page 04

60%-70% of adults do not recall ever disclosing their abuse as children. (London et al. 2005)  
55-69% of adults indicated that they never told anyone about the sexual abuse during childhood. (London et al. 2008)

\*\*\*Disclosure rates are between 31% and 41% for disclosure during childhood and between 58 and 72% for lifetime disclosure (Priebe and Svedin 2008)

The majority of child sex abuse victims who disclose their abuse delay disclosure until adulthood WHAT DOES THE DATA TELL US? About 1 survivor out of 5 had never disclosed the abuse (Hébert et al. 2009)

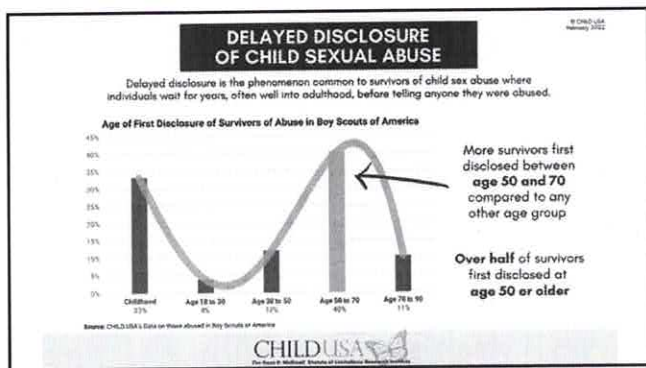
28% stated that they had never told anyone about this sexual assault (Smith et al. 2000) [3] 62% remained silent about their abused experience. (Tang 2002)

There is clear support for the proposition that a large proportion of abuse victims never disclose (Lyon 2009)

A large portion of abuse victims never disclose abuse at all. Research indicates that lengthy delays in disclosure and even nondisclosure are common (Paine and Hansen 2002)

BENSON, N.C. (WNCN) — A Johnston County Sunday School teacher convicted of committing sex crimes against multiple young girls will spend at least 87 years in prison.

A jury convicted Johnathan David Young, 38, on Monday of multiple counts of rape, sex offense and taking indecent liberties with children. Superior Court Judge George B. Collins then sentenced him to a minimum 87 years and maximum of 109 years in prison.



#### WHEN CSAM IS INVOLVED

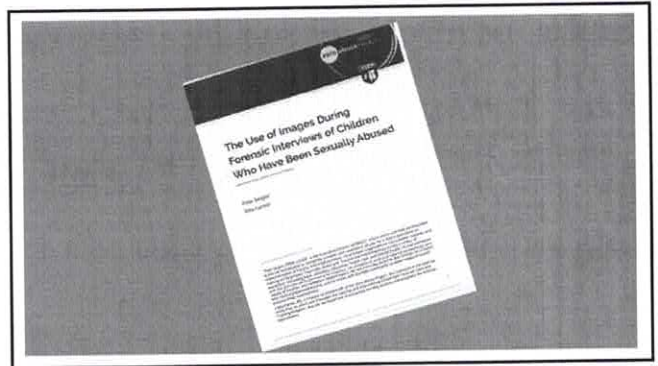
- There are numerous factors that involve nondisclosure of CSAM not the least of which in older children, guilt, shame and self-blame.
- This is particularly significant when children are shown their own images of abuse which can derail their psychological state profoundly resulting in far worse victim impact to include paranoia, substance misuse, and attempted and/or completed self-harm and suicidality.

#### TESTIMONY REGARDING DELAYED DISCLOSURE

- Factors that can impact disclosure: the presence of a **therapeutic relationship** between the victim and the interviewer.
- Whether the offender has already convinced the victim that the presence of images are the fault of the child e.g. when children are made to hold signs communicating that the sexual abuse is acceptable and a form of play (in younger children).
- Forensic interviews are not associated with a **therapeutic relationship**.

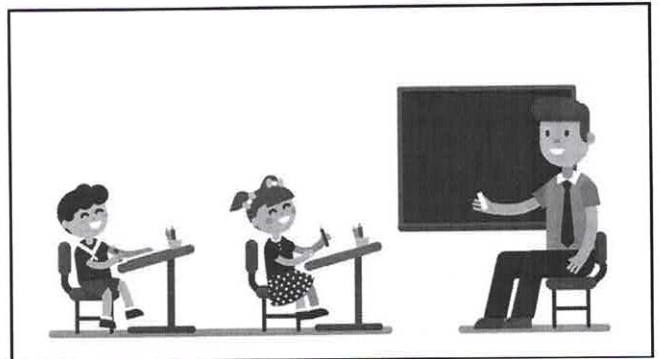
# The Use of Images During Forensic Interviews of Children Who Have Been Sexually Abused

By Pete Singer and Rita Farrell

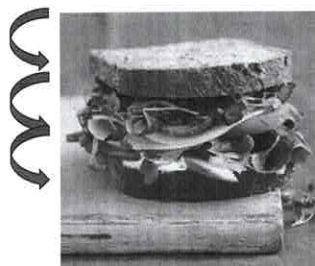


## Pretrial Preparation

- Provide information to the prosecutor regarding this important literature as learned treatises which will explain that even though there is strong evidence of sexual abuse e.g. rape kit evidence, CSAM images, sexually explicit play in young children and opportunity etc. a nondisclosure forensic interview is NORMAL in an overwhelming amount of child sexual abuse cases.
- Consider a "sandwich" manner of testifying: Prepare the jury to hear that the overwhelming percentage of CSA survivors do not disclose in childhood, describe the interview and if non-disclosure occurs, affirm that this child's interview was consistent with the overwhelming percentage of CSA cases.



CONSIDER THE SANDWICH TECHNIQUE



THE CONUNDRUM OF DRUG OR ALCOHOL  
FACILITATED DATE RAPE WHEN THERE IS NO  
MEMORY...SHOULD YOU EXPOSE A VICTIM TO  
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL  
IF THEIR IDENTITY IS ALREADY KNOWN?



