

Creative Corroboration of Child Abuse Allegations!

Detective Kevin McNeil

Objectives

- As a result of this block of instruction the active learner
 - will have a better understanding on how to gather evidence to support child abuse allegations.
 - How to gather witnesses to support child abuse allegations.
 - Have a better understanding on how abuse affects the victim and their family.

FLIGHT



Ponder This Question

- Why is it that one of the most devastating things in our culture is so hard to investigate and prove?

- Child Abuse investigations are different than any other investigations.
 - YOU MUST GATHER EVIDENCE RATHER THAN COLLECT IT.
 - EVIDENCE IS NOT COMING TO YOU.
 - THIS IS NOT FOR THE LAZY OF THE FAINT AT HEART.
 - THE VICTIM IS THE EVIDENCE (MUST LEARN TO SHOW COMPASSION--GET OUT OF THE EVERY ONE IS A PERP MENTALITY)

ATTENTION! POLICE DEPT.

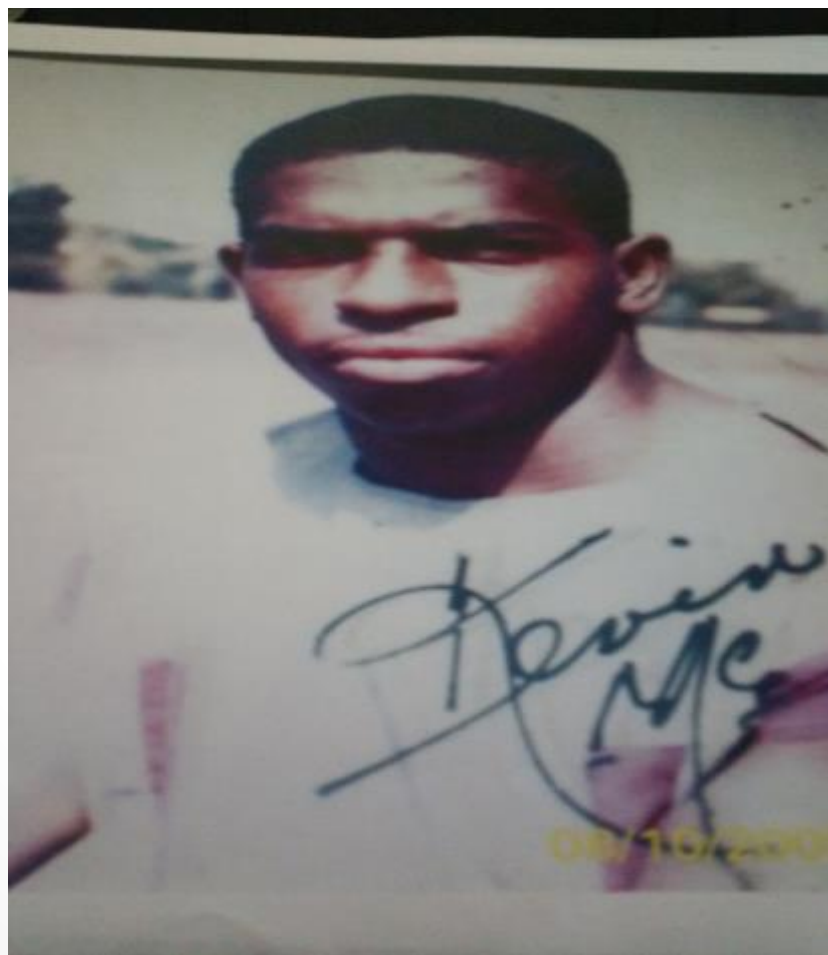
- YOU MUST DEVELOP A
RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR
DISTRICT ATTORNEYS OFFICE!

- DeKalb County Special Victims Detective
- From Memphis Tennessee
- Live in Atlanta, GA

Some other interesting facts about me

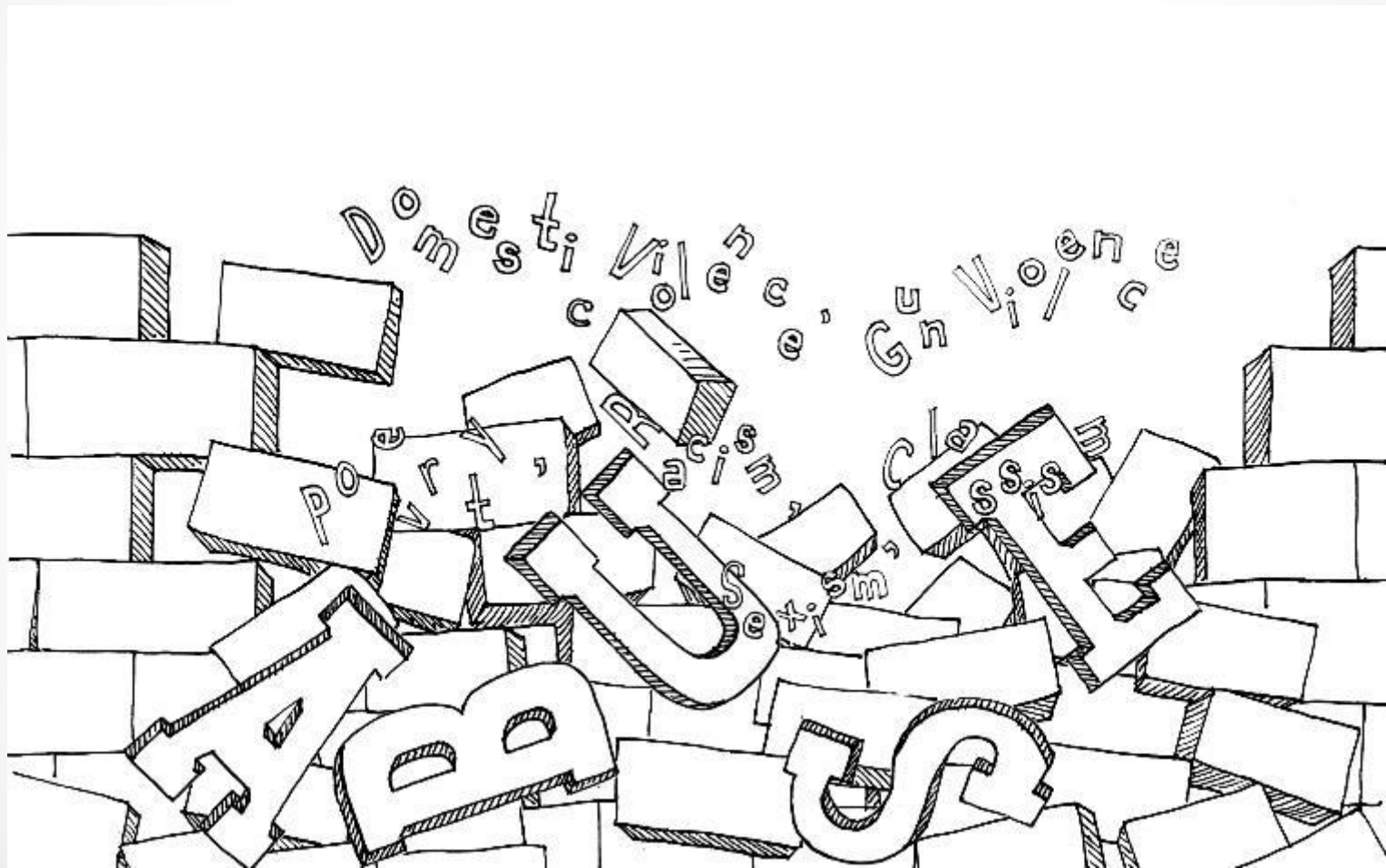
- Height: 6' 4
- Weight: (Top Secret)
- At certain angles I look like Denzel Washington





Domestic Violence, Gun Violence
Poverty, Racism, Sexism, Classism

ABUSE



What happens during an abusive act?



Abuse



Understanding Abuse

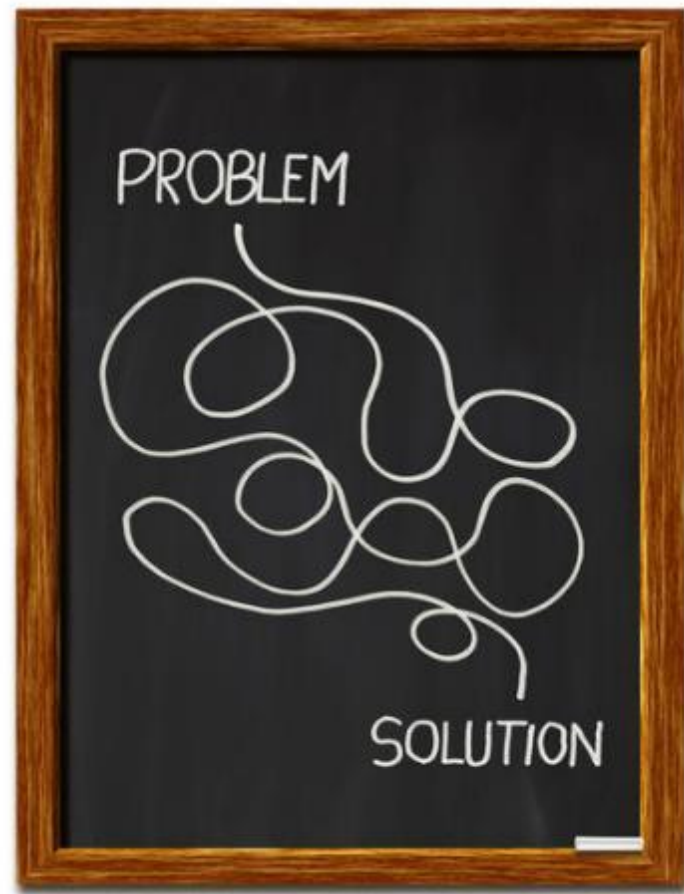
- Made me a better investigator
- Helped me collect evidence
- Helped me communicate better with the victim



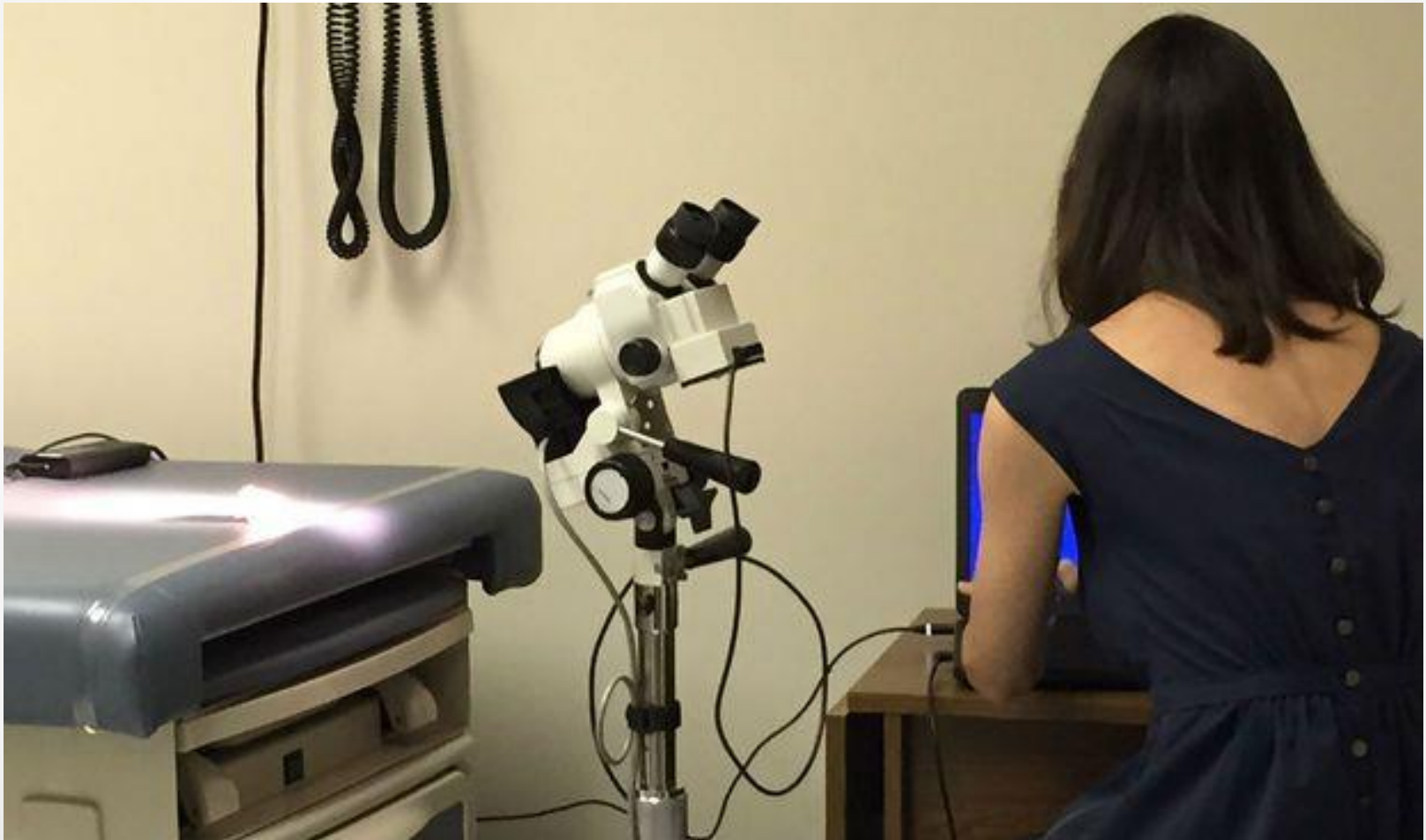
WCRS/Women's Aid

What makes Child Abuse investigation unique?

- No eyewitnesses
- Child victim
- Delayed outcry
- Rarely any forensic evidence
- Victim is my evidence



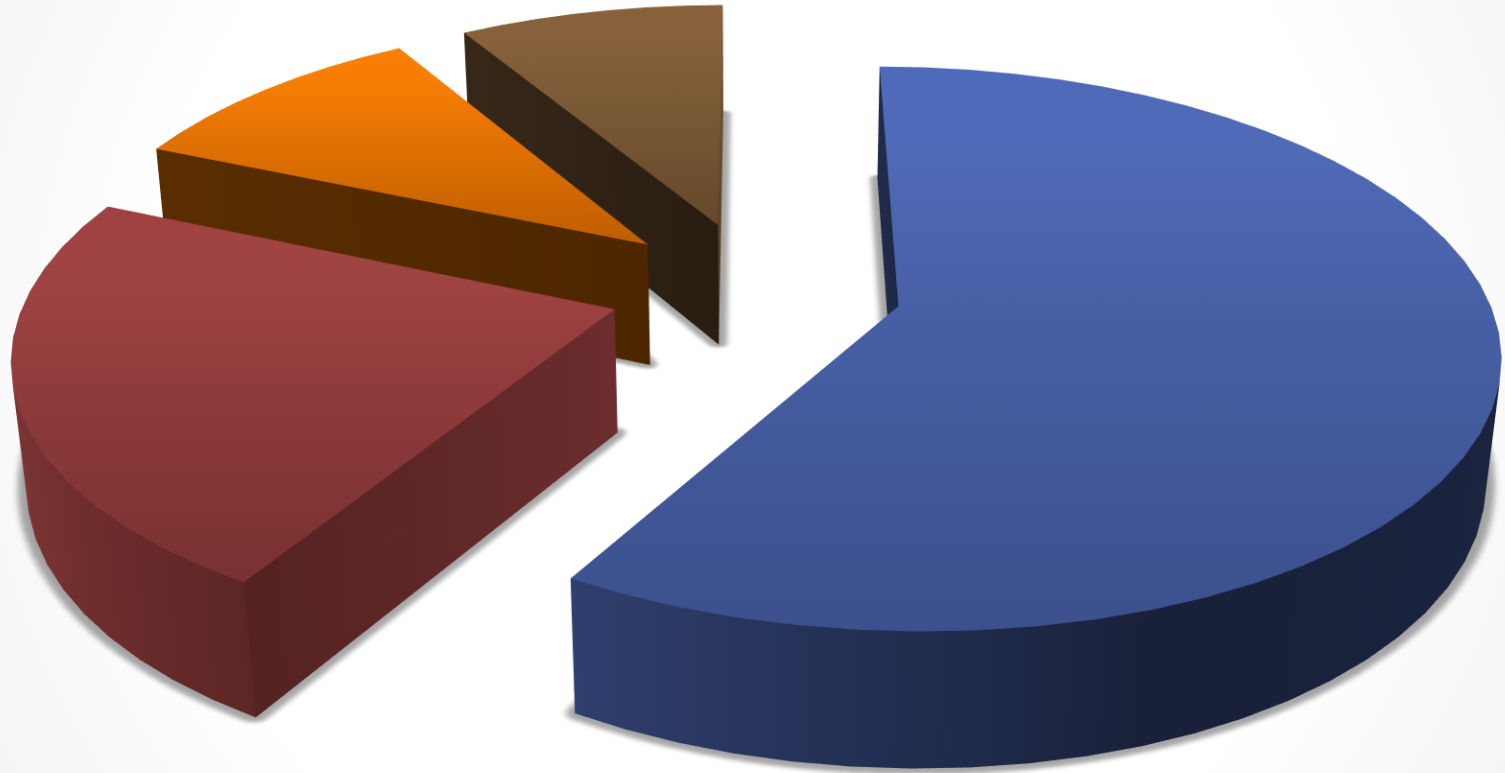
What's the biggest problem in Child Abuse INV.



The Allegation

- Never allow an Allegation go in the courtroom alone.

What Percentage of your cases are allegations?

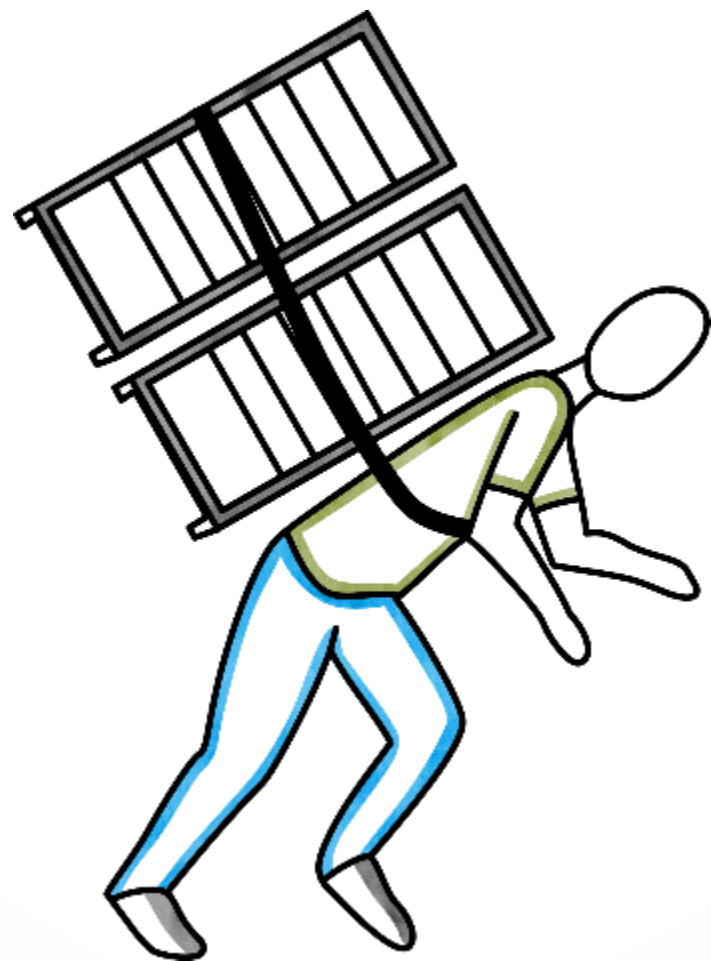


Some Obstacles



THE PUBLIC





Jury



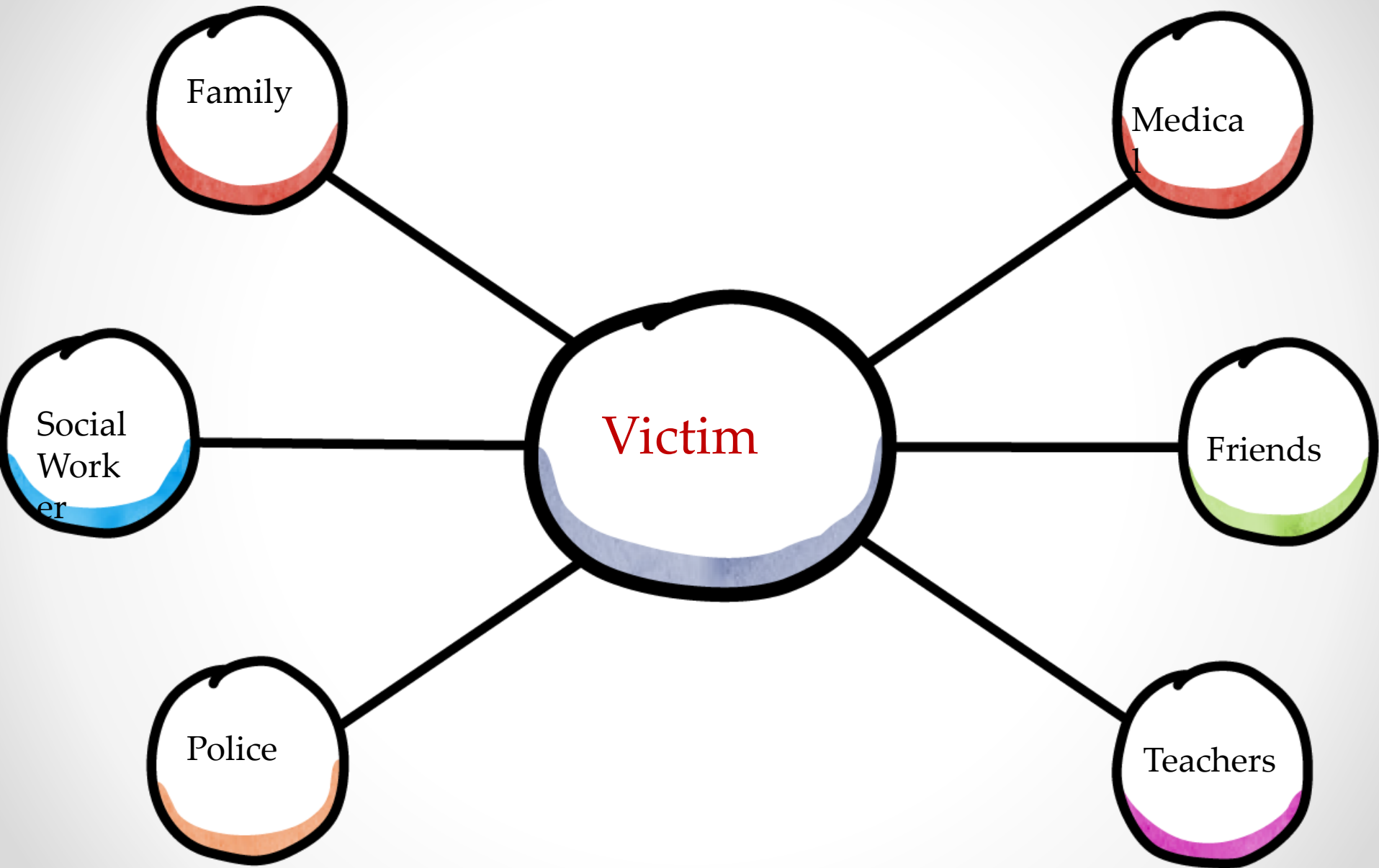


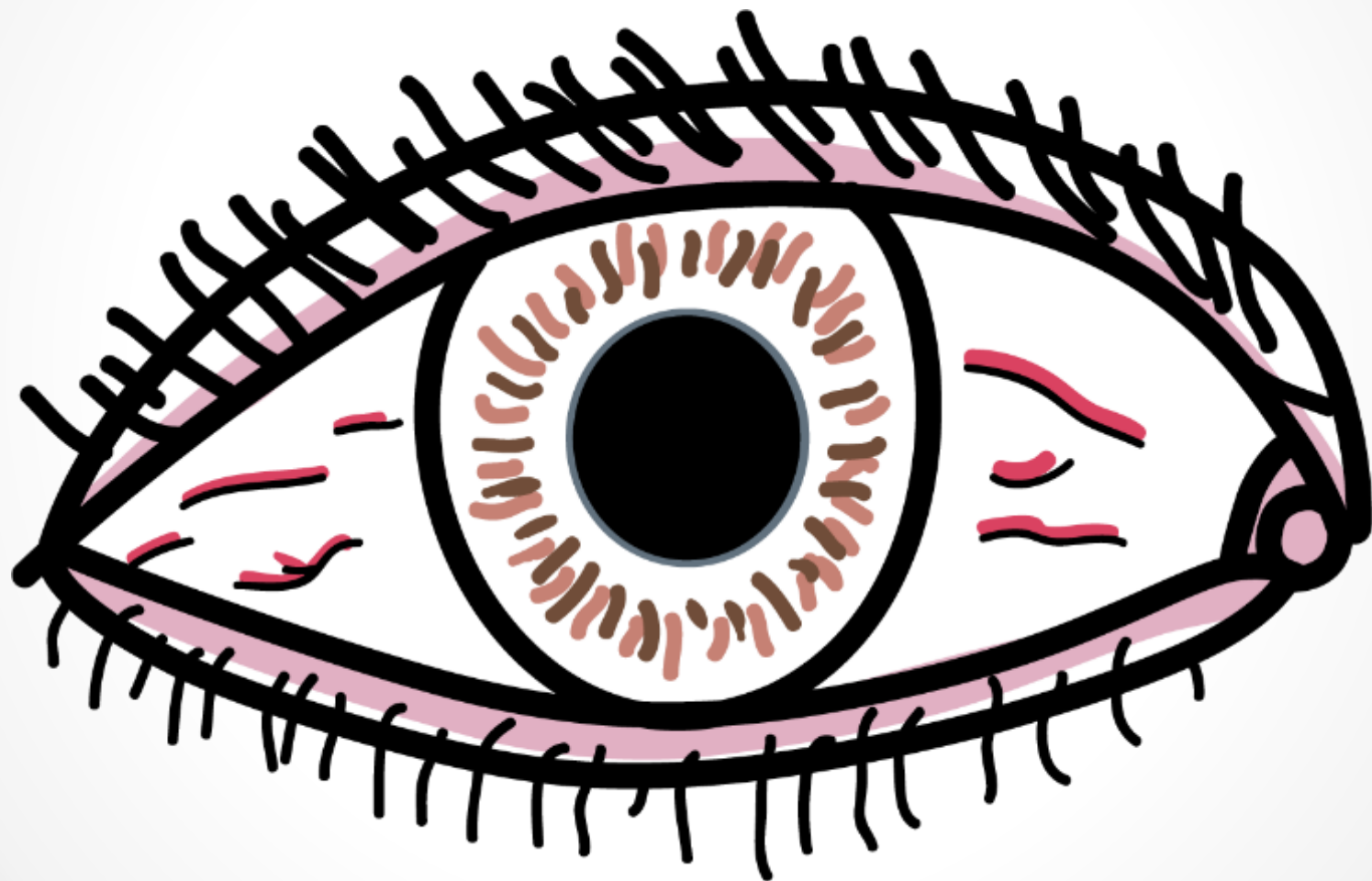
Obstacles

- Time— you must confirm this best way possible
- Parent/Guardian—Get them on your side
- Suspects—do thorough background
- Detective—don't make assumptions

Every Case should involve team















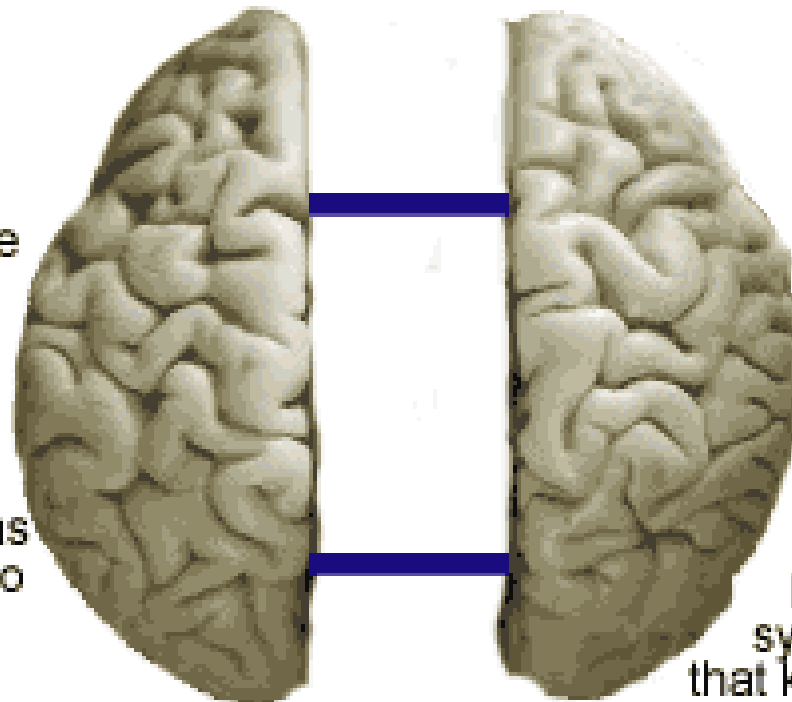


Analytical
Calms the
emotional side

L

in trauma it has
less ability to
do it's job

Trauma freezes thinking



Alarm Portion
Trauma hyper-
sensitizes it

R

It overreacts -
like the alarm
system of a car
that keeps going off

Schools

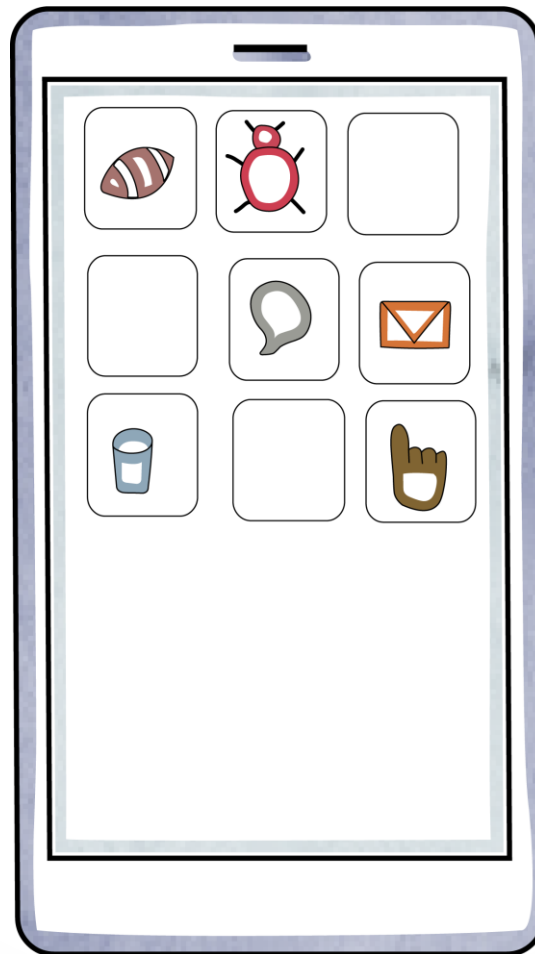


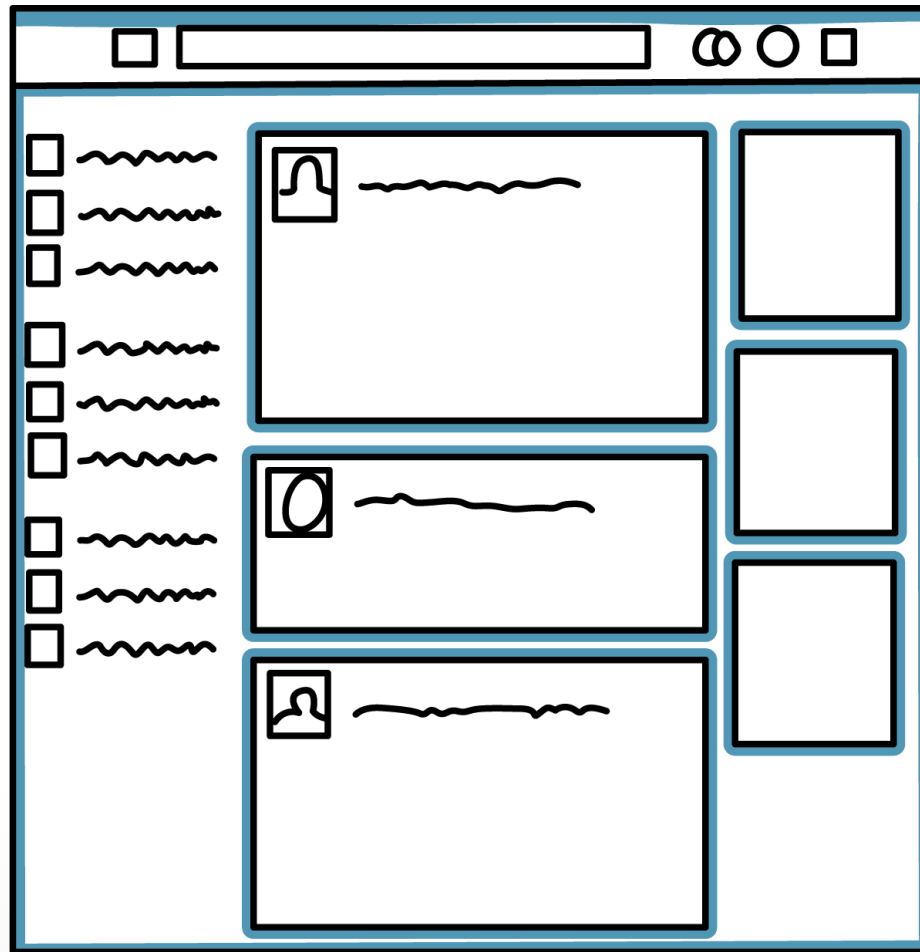
Forgotten Evidence

- Document all behavior changes reported by
 - Parents
 - School teacher
 - friends

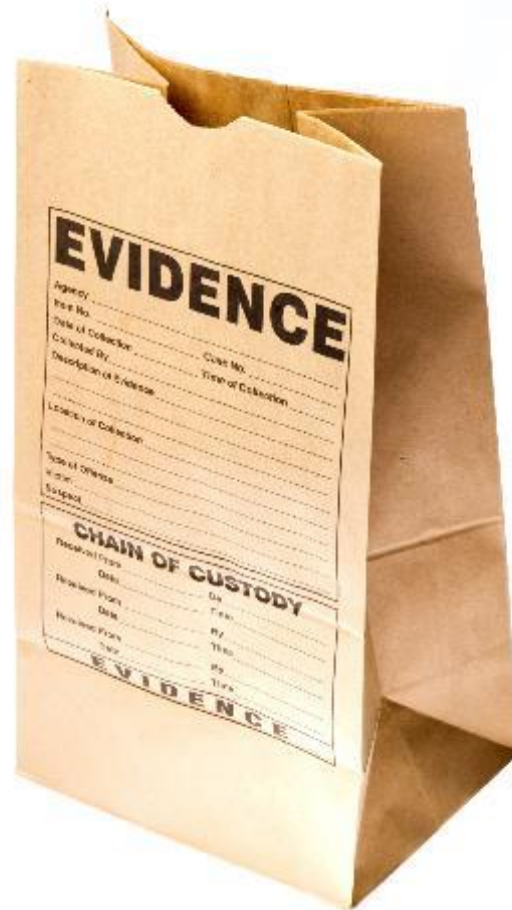
Take Photos







The missing piece!



Three Part Process in suspect interviews

- Cooperate
- Collaborate
- Confess

Suspect Case File









Trial Preparation

- Pre-trial questions
- During trial
 - Once you become defensive you work for the defense
 - Pause before answering
 - Direction the attention on the suspect
- Post-trial questions

Courtroom Testimony



