

**The CARES Institute's
Experts in Child Abuse and Neglect Lecture Series:**

**Interviewing Children About Sexual Abuse:
A Comprehensive Review of the State of the Art**

By Thomas D. Lyon, JD, PhD

October 20, 2021

1:00 PM – 3:40 PM

Intended audiences: This presentation is intended for child protection workers, law enforcement personnel, attorneys, physicians, nurses, mental health professionals (including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers of all levels, and licensed counselors), and all other disciplines not listed.

Live Online Interactive Presentation

To Register, visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/expert-in-child-abuse-neglect-lecture-series-thomas-d-lyon-jd-phd-registration-175206034967>

Registration closes on October 19, 2021 at 3 PM

Presentation Description:

This program will give professionals the tools they need to elicit complete reports from children alleging sexual abuse. We will discuss the Ten-step interview, which includes interview instructions, narrative practice, a non-leading introduction to the allegation, and open-ended follow-up questions. These steps will enable interviewers to elicit a productive initial narrative describing abuse. We'll discuss additional non-leading questions that are helpful in eliciting important additional details about abuse, including body positioning, types of touch, the invasiveness of touch, and conversations with the suspect and with disclosure recipients. Finally, we'll discuss the most difficult issues, including how to overcome reluctance and how to interview recanting children. Throughout the presentation I'll both describe research and play audio clips of actual interviews supporting the interviewing techniques.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to:

- a) Explain the dynamics underlying delayed disclosure and denial of sexual abuse;
- b) Identify how to elicit a productive initial narrative of sexual abuse;
- c) Describe how to elicit details typically unmentioned in children's narratives of abuse;
- d) Explain how to elicit productive information about children's conversations with others regarding their abuse;
- e) Describe how best to interview children who are recanting abuse.

Thomas D. Lyon, J.D., Ph.D. is the Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Chair in Law and Psychology at the University of Southern California. His goal is to identify the most productive means of questioning children about abuse and violence. He is the Past-President of the American Psychological Association's Section on Child Maltreatment (Division 37) and a former member of the Board of Directors of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. His work has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the

United States Department of Justice, the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, the California Endowment, and the Haynes Foundation.

Agenda

- 1:00 PM Introduction and the dynamics of abuse disclosure
- 1:15 PM Interview instructions & narrative practice
- 1:30 PM Allegation questions and the initial narrative
- 1:40 PM Questions about body mechanics (body positioning, types of touch, invasiveness of touch)
- 2:10 PM Q & A
- 2:20 PM Break
- 2:30 PM Questions about disclosure (conversations with the suspect and with disclosure recipients)
- 2:50 PM Handling reluctance
- 3:10 PM Interviewing the recanting child
- 3:30 PM Q & A
- 3:40 PM End of Presentation

Requesting Assistance: If you require assistance with hearing, or vision to make this conference accessible to you, please contact the office at (856) 566-6744 three (3) weeks prior to the conference.

Accreditation: Please contact the CARES Institute at (856) 566-6744 or carestraining@rowan.edu for information about continuing education credits.

* To receive CE credit for this training, you must have attended the entire conference and complete the evaluation. Upon completion of the evaluation form, you will receive an attendance certificate including CE information. Please note it may take up to 2 weeks to receive the certificate via email.

Psychologists: Rowan University CARES Institute is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Rowan University CARES Institute maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Social Workers: An application has been submitted to the Association of Social Work Boards ACE Program.

Attorneys: An application has been submitted to the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Physicians: An application has been submitted to Medical Society of New Jersey through the joint providership of Atlantic Health System and the American Academy of Pediatrics, New Jersey Chapter.

Nurses: Nurses seeking continuing will receive CME upon approval; see Physicians.