

I. Analysis of Power and Control Dynamics in Child Torture Investigations

Brief Description: Suggested inclusion criteria for a forensic medical diagnosis of child torture and the effect this diagnosis could have on child safety planning, criminal prosecution, and penalties for perpetrators will be presented. The presenter will also examine unique aspects of these investigations and the complex dynamics often associated with home environments in which children are subject to torture. This presenter will review case examples illustrating withholding of necessities and abusive acts often framed by perpetrators as legitimate discipline. This presentation will focus on the analysis of power and control linked to perpetrators' claims of discipline and protocols which can be utilized as investigative aids. These cases require specific coping skills and often support for professional allies who may be unprepared for the specifics of a child torture examination or investigation.

Learning Objectives

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify physical and psychological signs suggestive of child torture;
2. Analyze the vulnerability of siblings in a home environment where child torture is occurring. and
3. List 2 "necessities" often restricted by perpetrators in cases of child torture.