

CSW Guidelines for Siblings of Sexual Abused Victims

Issues	Therapeutic Goals	Process
<p>Grief and loss issues-The loss of the perpetrator, loss of contact with NOP or a sibling in foster care</p>	<p>Siblings will adapt to parent and sibling loss if placed in OHC, Siblings will adapt to loss of parent if perpetrator is removed from the home</p>	<p>Siblings express grief and loss of contact with parents, home or siblings in a variety of ways. OHC placement disruptions are often expressions of loss. Immediate counseling referrals are advised. CSWs can follow-up and age appropriately explain the necessity for the intervention</p>
<p>Attribution of responsibility - Siblings are often quite concrete in blaming the victim's disclosure rather than the abuse for the family's difficulties</p>	<p>Siblings will place responsibility for the sexual abuse and all that the family has endured since the disclosure on the perpetrator</p>	<p>Siblings often align themselves with the perpetrator whom they experienced in more appropriate ways. It is important to validate their feelings along with the experience of the victim.</p>
<p>Self protection - Siblings may need to learn about healthy boundaries and family rules</p>	<p>Siblings will develop self protection skills, self boundary awareness and the role of family rules</p>	<p>Self protection helps siblings personalize the safety concerns</p>
<p>Family role realignment - In some families, the offender is more "valuable" than the victim. The NOP who may have been subjugated by the offender must be accepted as the leader of the family. The sibling's loyalties are divided between family members.</p>	<p>Siblings will adapt to taking roles consistent with their age and ordination in sibling order</p>	<p>Siblings often assume adult like roles in the family particularly when the perpetrator is removed, or when certain aspects of parental roles are missing. Older brothers sometimes assume the role of discipline provider or assumes a role of protector.</p>
<p>Trauma issues - Siblings have often been exposed to many of the same trauma factors as the victims, minus the sexual abuse</p>	<p>Siblings will process trauma associated memories, thoughts and experiences Siblings will adapt to becoming trauma survivors</p>	<p>Sibling trauma experiences are sometimes unseen due to the importance of the victim's disclosure.</p>
<p>Undisclosed victimization - Children who are identified as siblings of sexual abuse victims are sometimes victims themselves. They have either not disclosed or they witnessed the sexual abuse of their sibling. Treatment for siblings may create a place for a child to talk about their own victimization</p>	<p>Siblings will process any unidentified victimization experience</p>	<p>It is important to ask the victim about what they experienced along with what they witnessed.</p>
<p>Safety Planning – Family Safety Planning engages the family members in making rules that will keep children safe from abuse</p>	<p>Siblings will participate in developing a Family Safety Plan</p>	<p>Safety planning empowers each family member to make rules that protect them and keep them safe.</p>