

# Optimizing Forensic Interviews

## The Impact of Pre- and Post-Interview Meetings

### Key Learning Objectives

- Identify the key components of a forensic interview and the role of the interviewer.
- Understand the importance of pre- and post-interview meetings in the forensic interview process.
- Explore the impact of pre- and post-interview meetings on the quality of the forensic interview and the well-being of the child.
- Identify strategies for implementing effective pre- and post-interview meetings.

### INTRODUCTIONS



### Beyond the Interview: A Holistic Approach



Forensic interviews are a critical component of the child protection process. However, the impact of these interviews can be significantly enhanced by taking a holistic approach that considers the child's overall well-being and the needs of all stakeholders involved.

### Who Benefits: A Collaborative Approach



- Child
- Family
- Community
- Law Enforcement
- Healthcare Providers
- Legal System

### Implementing Effective Meeting Strategies

Maintain Neutrality and Child Focus



- Preparation
- Agenda
- Roles
- Time Management
- Communication
- Follow-up

### Pre-Interview Meetings with Caregivers

- Reduce children's fear and anxiety
- Clarify questions and procedures
- Promote a child's safety and well-being
- Support child's well-being and provide emotional support

“True impact at a CAC comes from the strength of a multidisciplinary team where every voice, from medical to legal to emotional support comes together with one shared purpose: protecting and uplifting children.”

### Post-Interview Debriefings: Enhancing Coordination

- Enhances caregiver understanding and support regarding next steps.
- Ensures consistent messaging across all MDT partners.
- Builds trust and rapport with all stakeholders.
- Strengthens MDT coordination for trauma-informed follow-up.

### MDT Collaboration Before the Interview

- Improves case planning and strategic information sharing.
- Ensures a unified approach and shared understanding among partners.
- Aligns investigative, therapeutic, and advocacy goals effectively.

**True impact at a CAC comes from the strength of a multidisciplinary team—where every voice, from medical to legal to emotional support comes together with one shared purpose: protecting and uplifting children.**

# *INTRODUCTIONS*



# Key Learning Objectives

- ➔ Identify benefits of pre-interview meetings in reducing interview contamination and supporting child well-being.
- ➔ Describe the role of MDT partner collaboration before the interview in improving case planning and information sharing.
- ➔ Explain how post-interview meetings enhance caregiver understanding, MDT coordination, and trauma-informed follow-up.
- ➔ Apply practical strategies and scripts for conducting effective pre- and post-interview meetings while maintaining forensic integrity.

# Who Benefits: A Collaborative Approach



Forensic Interviewers



MDT Professionals



Victim Advocates



Mental Health Clinicians



Supervisors

# Beyond the Interview: A Holistic Approach

Effective forensic interviews rely on coordinated, trauma-informed multidisciplinary team (MDT) responses. This presentation focuses on the critical role of structured communication before and after the interview to support the child and improve investigative and therapeutic outcomes.



# Pre- Interview Meetings with Caregivers

- ➔ Reduces inadvertent coaching and interview contamination.
- ➔ Clarifies expectations and process for caregivers.
- ➔ Promotes emotional safety and prepares the child.
- ➔ Supports child well-being and preserves interview integrity.

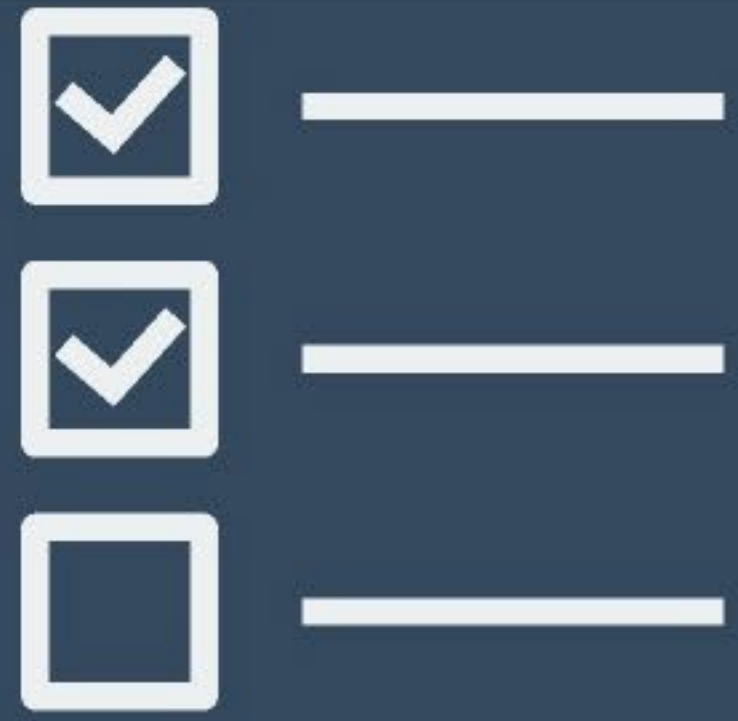
# MDT Collaboration Before the Interview

- ➔ Improves case planning and strategic information sharing.
- ➔ Ensures a unified approach and shared understanding among partners.
- ➔ Aligns investigative, therapeutic, and advocacy goals effectively.

# Post- Interview Debriefings: Enhancing Coordination

- ➔ Enhances caregiver understanding and support regarding next steps.
- ➔ Ensures consistent messaging across all MDT partners.
- ➔ Guides comprehensive next steps in investigation, treatment, and victim advocacy.
- ➔ Strengthens MDT coordination for trauma-informed follow-up.





## Structured Agendas

Develop clear topics and objectives for all pre- and post-meetings.



## Active Communication

Engage caregivers and  
MDT partners  
empathetically and  
effectively.



# Boundary Setting

Address common challenges and ethical considerations with clear boundaries.



# Practical Scripts

Utilize adaptable tools  
for consistent messaging  
while maintaining  
forensic integrity.

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**Key Learning Objectives**

- Identify the key components of a forensic interview and the role of the interviewer.
- Understand the importance of pre- and post-interview meetings in the forensic interview process.
- Explore the impact of pre- and post-interview meetings on the quality of the interview and the well-being of the child.
- Discuss strategies for implementing effective pre- and post-interview meetings.

### INTRODUCTIONS



### Beyond the Interview: A Holistic Approach



Forensic interview is a critical component of the child protection process. It is a structured and standardized process that aims to gather information from a child in a safe and supportive environment. The interview is conducted by a trained professional, such as a social worker or a police officer, and is designed to be child-friendly and trauma-informed. The information gathered during the interview is used to investigate and respond to child abuse and neglect. A holistic approach to forensic interviews recognizes the child's emotional and psychological needs, and seeks to provide a supportive and safe environment for the child during the interview process.

### Pre-Interview Meetings with Caregivers

- ➔ Reduces children's fear and anxiety before the interview.
- ➔ Clarifies questions and provides reassurance.
- ➔ Promotes a child's safety and prepares the child.
- ➔ Supports child well-being and promotes the child's recovery.

### MDT Collaboration Before the Interview

- ➔ Improves case planning and strategic information sharing.
- ➔ Ensures a unified approach and shared understanding among partners.
- ➔ Aligns investigative, therapeutic, and advocacy goals effectively.

### Post-Interview Debriefings: Enhancing Coordination

- ➔ Enhances caregiver understanding and support regarding next steps.
- ➔ Ensures consistent messaging across all MDT partners.
- ➔ Builds competence and trust in investigative, therapeutic, and advocacy partners.
- ➔ Strengthens MDT coordination for trauma-informed follow-up.

“True impact at a CAC comes from the strength of a multidisciplinary team where every voice, from medical to legal to emotional support comes together with one shared purpose: protecting and uplifting children.”

### Implementing Effective Meeting Strategies

Maintain Neutrality and Child Focus

- ➔ Avoidance of leading questions
- ➔ Avoidance of suggestive questions
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too broad or too narrow
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too open-ended
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too closed-ended
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too leading
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too suggestive
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too broad
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too narrow
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too open-ended
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too closed-ended
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too leading
- ➔ Avoidance of questions that are too suggestive

### Who Benefits: A Collaborative Approach



- ➔ Children
- ➔ Caregivers
- ➔ Law enforcement
- ➔ Medical professionals
- ➔ Social workers
- ➔ Therapists
- ➔ Advocates
- ➔ Judges
- ➔ Jurors
- ➔ The public

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