# Navigating Peer Review Initiatives in Forensic Interviewing
Executive Summary

SOUTHERN REGIONAL **SRCAC** CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

What Is Peer Review and Why It Matters

Peer review is a structured process in which forensic interviewers review recorded interviews and participate in facilitated discussions with peers. This process is essential to strengthening skills, maintaining fidelity to best practices, and supporting ongoing professional development. It's also a required component of the National Children's Alliance Standards for Accreditation. Yet, despite its importance, peer review implementation across the country varies widely—and may lack the structure and support needed to be truly effective.

Navigating Peer Review Initiatives in Forensic Interviewing:

A COMPREHENSIVE EXPLORATION
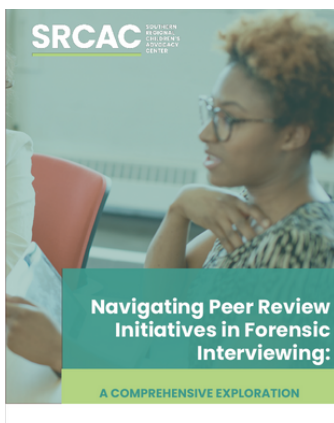
Access Full Paper

How to Use the Paper

This exploration offers a national perspective on forensic interview peer review, drawing from research literature, field analysis across 14 states, and five focus groups with CAC and Chapter staff.

Use this paper to:
- Assess your current peer review practices
- Identify gaps or inconsistencies
- Guide enhancements to peer review structure, facilitation, and participation
- Support onboarding and supervisor engagement

Challenges to Address

- Peer review **programs vary widely** in structure, frequency, and facilitator qualifications
- **Participation is inconsistent** and often treated as a checkbox activity
- **Feedback delivery varies** in quality and effectiveness

"Peer review is one of many accepted standards to prevent interviewer drift."

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Five Evidence-Informed Recommendations for CACs & Chapters

1 Define the Purpose Clearly

- Clearly communicate the *why* behind peer review during onboarding
- Prepare interviewers and supervisors with expectations around attendance and engagement
- Reinforce that peer review is a strategic investment in service excellence, not just a compliance task

2 Invest in Facilitator Training

- Select facilitators with content knowledge and peer leadership skills
- Provide training on feedback delivery and adult learning strategies
- Align facilitation with current research and evidence-informed techniques

3 Foster Active Participation

- Create small, consistent groups with clear ground rules
- Use reflective questions and proactive techniques to guide discussion
- Invite input from everyone to ensure all voices are heard and valued

4 Structure with Flexibility

- Use agendas, schedules, and learning objectives to guide sessions
- Implement tools and frameworks to guide feedback and ensure alignment with best practices
- Stay adaptable to group needs, research, and evolving practice

5 Evaluate and Evolve

- Regularly survey participants and debrief with facilitators
- Monitor quality, participation, and outcomes
- Adjust your model based on feedback and field developments