**STEPS FOR ORDERLY CASE PRESENTATION**

* **Child’s Name, Age, Race and Gender**
* **Who is the Reporter?**
	+ What precipitated the report?
	+ What were the circumstances of the disclosure?
	+ Family history - Is family known to DCS/Are there screened out reports?
* **What is the Allegation?**
	+ What were the exact words the child used?
	+ What was the emotional state during the disclosure?
	+ Other information from the reporter?
* **What did the Child Say During Interview?**
	+ Who interviewed the child?
	+ Where was interview conducted?
	+ What was content of interview: Who, What, Where, When, How Often?
* **What did the Parent or Caregiver Say during Interview?**
	+ What were the caregivers concerns?
* **What did the Alleged Perpetrator Say?**
	+ Who conducted the interview?
* **Other Corroborating Evidence: Medical, Forensic**

**Interview, Witnesses, Etc.**

* + Were other family or household members interviewed? ie: grandparent, sibling, other children in home.
	+ Were additional witnesses interviewed? ie: school personnel, friends of alleged victim.
	+ Did the child receive forensic medical examination and what was the result?

**ASSESSING VALIDITY IN SEXUAL ABUSE CASES**

* **Elimination of Other Explanations**
	+ Alternative explanation for child’s statement that would indicate no abuse
	+ Sufficient confirmation so that deliberate falsehood, coaching can be ruled out
* **Spontaneity**
	+ Spontaneous statements from children are reliable statements
	+ Initial report may have been spontaneous
* **Consistency**
	+ Consistency of the child’s statement throughout time of initial report, forensic interview, medical exam
	+ This is not to say that the child’s account must be exactly the same each time
	+ Consistent for core events and individuals involved
* **Sexual Knowledge or Behavior that is Developmentally Unusual**
* **Developmentally Appropriate Language**
* **Idiosyncratic Detail**
	+ Taste, smell, how it felt, tattoos, etc.
* **Content of Statement**
	+ Multiple incidents over time
	+ Progression of activity
	+ Elements of secrecy
	+ Elements of coercion
* **The Child’s Manner and Emotional Response**
	+ General demeanor of the child
	+ Hesitancy to discuss questions, feelings of shame, fear, guilt
	+ There is no single “normal” reaction of a “real victim” during an interview
* **Medical Evidence**
* **Forensic Evidence**
* **The Alleged Perpetrator’s Statement**