



Social Networking and the Grooming of the Compliant Victim ©

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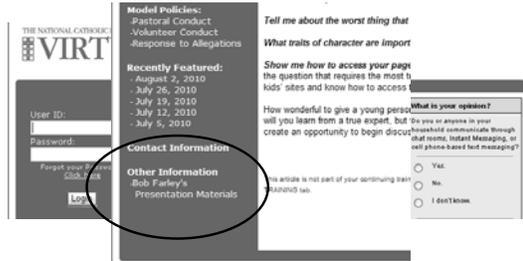
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**Commanding Officer
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Child Sexual Abuse Crimes

Child Sexual Abuse

- Within the family

Child Sexual Exploitation

- Primarily outside the family
- Multiple victims
- Child pornography

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What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ???

Teens or tweens who cooperate and / or participate in their own victimization

- The victim has developed intense and passionate feelings for the molester
- Even so, they are legally unable to give consent
- Child sexual exploitation

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What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ???

- Because of their extensive communication it is very misleading to characterize the molester of this victim as a “stranger”

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What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

Issues

- The public idealistically prefers to perceive children and teens as being pure and innocent rather than human beings with human needs
- Difficult for the Judge / Jury to understand or be sympathetic to this type of victim(s)

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What Does the Term “Compliant Victim” Mean ??? (cont.)

Issues – continued

- Important for the prosecutor to clarify the grooming process of the victim with a MDT Therapist – Expert witness in order to explain the victim’s complicity

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Teens / Tweens – Generally

- Lack good decision making abilities
- Often use poor judgment
- Tend to be impulsive
- Sometimes rebellious
- Seek out risk taking behaviors
- Working on developing their own unique social needs
- Very susceptible to peer pressure

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Teens / Tweens – The Premise

- Have learned to manipulate their environment to get what they want
- Possess a normal sexual curiosity
- Consider themselves invincible

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Grooming the Compliant Victim



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Grooming the Compliant Victim

The ADULT MOLESTER, while often pretending to be somewhat younger, trolls the Internet seeking a victim who is troubled or has low self esteem

- The selected victim is commonly a female
- He frequently identifies his potential victim from postings/photos on social network sites

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Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He spends an enormous amount of time talking with the victim initially online and then later utilizing a cell phone
- He appears kind, loving and tender
- He is an exceptional listener and then shares personal things such as “I’ve never told anyone this before but”
- He is constantly appraising her to make sure that he is accepted

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Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He never shows anger or displeasure
- He makes himself appear trustworthy
- He compliments her repeatedly, especially in those areas of low self esteem
- He makes her believe that the universe revolves around her
- He encourages her to create a private email account and/or point of contact

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Grooming the Compliant Victim

- As part of the manipulation he gives her the illusion of control
- He unexpectedly sends her e-cards or gifts

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Grooming the Compliant Victim

- The victim comes to believe that he is wonderful and truly cares about her
- He becomes her best friend – bff
- He attempts to isolate her from others
- He belittles her home life, parents, teachers and their rules
- He tells her that if she lived with him... she could stay out late, smoke, drink or use drugs

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Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He constantly tells her that she is beautiful and he loves her
- He slowly becomes sexual professing it as a true expression of their love
- He initially encourages her “to just talk with him” about sex
- He then sends her explicit photos and videos, as validation, of older men and younger girls “hooking up”

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Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He disrobes via the web-cam or in photos so she can see the “real him”
- He encourages her to disrobe for him in photos or via web-cam so he can see “how beautiful she is”
- Encourages her to meet him at a hotel – so they can finally be together alone
- In love, they finally meet for a “date” which includes sex....

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Grooming the Compliant Victim

- He almost never uses threats, force, coercion or abduction to sexually abuse the victim
- The “seduced” victim has actively cooperated with the molester and has become compliant in her own abuse

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Compliant Victims Rarely Disclose their Abuse

- Accident
- Medical – Pregnancy, STD (STI)
- Jealously – Molester approaches the victim’s friend or a younger sibling
- Anger – When the relationship ends
- Most compliant victims will deny their victimization and may even be hostile when confronted

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Compliant Victim – MDT Investigation

- As a result of the grooming process the victim does not perceive herself as a victim and will, in most cases, refuse to go along with the investigation
- Some victims will continue to deny victimization even when shown seized images of themselves
- Some victims will continue to deny acts of victimization that the molester has confessed to the police

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Compliant Victim – MDT Investigation

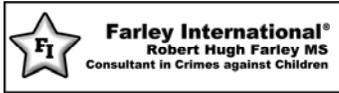
- If the victim finally discloses to an interviewer she will frequently minimize her behavior and maximize the offender’s behavior
- The victim may relate that drugs or alcohol were provided, in order to explain her complicity
- The victim may embellish violent behavior used against her in order to minimize her shame/complicity

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Compliant Victim – Conclusion

- Don’t assume that you understand their world
- When communicating with a compliant victim, always acknowledge your un-coolness
- Don’t be judgmental and convey your own biases
- Don’t be unwilling to accept the reality of the complaint victim

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Thank you !

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