

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM STANDARDS

GOALS

- a. To provide trauma-informed therapeutic intervention and services to children and youth who have experienced crime victimization and abuse
- b. To increase victims' safety
- c. To ensure victims have access to services that meet their self-defined needs

DEFINITIONS

Children and Youth Victims may include, but is not limited to, victims of crime involving physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect; victims of pornography related offenses; victims of sex and labor trafficking; and children/youth who are exposed to or witness violence.

Children and Youth refers to anyone 24 years or younger.

Therapeutic intervention and services refers to services designed to specifically address the individual's recovery and healing from the impact of crime victimization.

Trauma-informed services are designed to understand, recognize and respond to the effects of all types of trauma. Trauma-informed care emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety and helps survivors rebuild a sense of control and empowerment. Trauma disrupts healthy development and becoming trauma-informed means recognizing that people often have different types of trauma in their lives for which they need support and understanding from those around them.

SERVICES

Programs shall provide services meeting the individual developmental, physical health and safety needs of youth and/or child crime victims, and to their families/guardians/caregivers as secondary victims.

Services may include:

- crisis intervention
- information and referral
- youth support group
- personal advocacy and emotional support
- support during medical forensic exam
- therapeutic intervention or therapy
- criminal justice assistance and support
- assistance securing emergency services such as shelter, food, child care, clothing and other necessities for self-sufficiency
- transportation as necessary and appropriate
- assistance accessing human/social/family services
- assistance with interpretation, translation and culturally appropriate materials
- understanding their rights as a victim of crime

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Programs shall provide formalized training to staff and volunteers regarding the laws governing services to children/youth at risk, including but not limited to Minority Heritage Act; Family Preservation Act; Indian Children Welfare Act (ICWA); Children in Protective Services (CHIPS) and mandatory reporting.

YOUTH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Programs shall provide at least four presentations to school or youth groups regarding the dynamics of child abuse, disclosure, safety, and access to support services.

SYSTEMS CHANGE & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Programs shall work to improve the community's and the system's responsiveness to the needs of victims of crime through training and informal contact with persons having contact with victims of crime. This may include those working in law enforcement, court services, legal representation, corrections, health, education, social services, and the ministry. Programs shall work to secure sensitive, effective policies, procedures, protocols and practices for working with child/youth victims. Systems change efforts prioritize the needs and rights of victims, rather than institutions.

PARTNERING

Programs shall actively work to improve their relationship with other professional service providers to better serve victims of crime by partnering to promote cooperative services and improve the overall response to victims of crime. Partnering may involve cooperative training and community events, professional memberships, collaborative workgroups and agreements, information sharing, community provider networks, referral agreements, interagency feedback and service evaluations, administrative and programmatic resource sharing, and other creative means.