

From The Desk Of Jill Jones-Soderman

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POLICE - THE FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE

Police may do well charging forward to meet a known enemy – but the process involved in sitting behind a desk and figuring out who is the victim and who is the culprit is a process that too often does not work so well when it comes to the assessment of child sexual abuse/accusations by children or protective parents. Where there is room for judgmental bias, personal discretion, use of one's own experience, moral/normative “common sense”..... “common sense” of the person with authority seems to find its way into the process of whether or not to investigate.

Where the police have some personal contact or know of the accused by reputation/association with those familiar to the interviewer the process of investigation becomes a process of injecting personal bias on a trajectory to discredit the individuals reporting a need to document or request intervention. Elements of the subject requesting assistance somehow becomes the object of scrutiny as to motive, generally malevolent motive, suspicious inquiry as to the wrongdoing of the person requesting help... You are seeking police intervention to cover a crime perpetrated by you? The person seeking help is suddenly in the position of defending themselves against the status of being charged with the crime they are seeking to report or from which they need to be protected.

The laser focus on evidence disappears in the vapors of suspicion and inference that whomever brings a complaint is obviously the perpetrator, seeking to set up some poor, unsuspecting innocent through the lies and manipulations of the complainant who appears, often, child in hand, evidence/pictures, bloody underwear in a bag. Accusations of abuse are uploaded into a black cloud which then sits squarely over the head of the reporter, so as to be forever identified by those whom the police refer complainants, the so called “child protective services”. Once branded, identified, documented to be a liar, CPS can finish the job of labeling as “unsubstantiated” the accusation of a crime for which the victim, or protective parent sought police assistance in the first place.

The eagerness to dismiss cases, to discredit reporters and witnesses where there is an exceptionally vulnerable population is condemning innumerable victims to suffering or death.