

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BROWARD
COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. III-89-A-10

IN RE:

CHILD AND SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS
INTERVIEWS OF YOUNG VICTIMS

In accordance with the authority vested in the Chief Judge by Rule 2.050 of the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 7, Chapter B4-B6, Laws of Florida, requiring the Chief Judge to provide by order reasonable limits on the number of interviews that young victims of child abuse or sexual abuse must submit to for law enforcement or discovery purposes and Section 794.011, 800.04, 827.03, and 827.04 and Chapters 39 and 415, Florida Statutes, when the victim is under the age of sixteen years at the time the interviews are sought, and whereas

"Interview" for the purposes of this order means any procedure in which the child victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse after the filing of formal charges. This does not include a history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment; an initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim; nor the actual testimony itself.

In accord with the foregoing and the need to act in the best interest of the child victims of abuse, it is now therefore

ORDERED as follows:

1.No victim of abuse who falls within the age guideline of this order shall be required to submit to more than three interviews in the course of investigation and prosecution of an episode of abuse, except upon order of court as provided below.

2.The Court intends that the three interviews be allowed to meet the needs of potential parties as follows: one interview allotted to the investigating agency, one to the State Attorney, one to the legal representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse.

3.Interested parties or agencies shall make every effort to gain all necessary information in the course of the same interview.

4.Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner intended to minimize the traumatic effects of the interview on the victim.

5. When more than one party or agency participates in a single interview, the interview will be conducted by a single person who shall address the concerns of all parties in the course of the interview.

6. Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of Court upon motion for good cause shown. Additional interviews shall be limited in scope to assure minimal impact on the victim.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers in Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida this 1st day of June, 1989.

/S/MIETTE K. BURNSTEIN
MIETTE K. BURNSTEIN, Chief Judge