**Addendum I**

**Children’s Advocacy Center of Kennebec and Somerset Counties**

**Revised January 2013**

**Forensic Interview Structure and Protocol**

* All forensic interviews conducted at the CAC will be done in a legally sound, child centered, non-duplicative, non-leading and neutral way. All MDT members conducting forensic interviews must have documentation of specialized training that meets at least one of the following Training Standards:
	+ Documentation of satisfactory completion of competency-based child abuse forensic interview training that includes child development.
	+ Documentation of 40 hours of nationally or state recognized forensic interview training that includes child development.
* The forensic interview is a structured conversation with a child intended to elicit detailed information about a possible event or events that a child has experienced or witnessed. The purposes of the forensic interview include, but are not limited to: obtaining information from the child that may be instructive in a criminal investigation, assessing the safety of the child, and obtaining information to either corroborate or refute allegations of sexual abuse.
* The Forensic Interview a structured conversation and is not considered mental health diagnosis or treatment.
* The interviewer must adopt a hypotheses-testing approach and maintain objectivity throughout the interview.
* The interviewer must be flexible in the structure and adapt the order of the interview structure based on each individual child. The following steps may be included during a forensic interview however, considering that each child and each interview are different; the interviewer must be flexible and adjust the steps according to each individual child.
	+ Introduction
	+ Rapport Building
	+ Guidelines/Rules
	+ Narrative Practice about a non- abuse related topic
	+ Family
	+ Transition
	+ Narrative description
	+ Follow-up Questions
	+ Clarification
	+ Closure
* Media and Interview Aids
	+ Anatomical drawings may be used during an interview only after a disclosure and only for the purpose of clarification.
	+ Anatomical dolls will not be used at any time during the forensic interview.