

Statewide Forensic Interviewer Peer Review Protocol



NCA Forensic Interview Standard:

Individuals who conduct forensic interviews at the CAC must participate in a structured peer review process for forensic interviewers a minimum of 2 times per year, as a matter of quality assurance. Peer review serves to reinforce the methodologies utilized as well as provide support and problem-solving for shared challenges. Peer review includes participants and facilitators who are trained to conduct child forensic interviews.

Statement of Intent:

Participation in peer review is vital in assuring that forensic interviewers further develop and strengthen their skills based on new research and developments in the field that impact the quality of their interviews. Peer review is a complement, not a substitute, for supervision, case review, and case planning.

Protocol:

- The purpose of peer review is to develop and strengthen Maine's forensic interviewers' skills by providing the following:
 - Ongoing opportunities to network and share learning with peers;
 - A professional and confidential setting for providing and receiving performance feedback;
 - Updates on current, relevant research in the forensic interviewing field; and
 - Training opportunities specific to forensic interviewing and CAC specific methodologies.
- Statewide Peer Review will be conducted on a quarterly basis.
- Peer Review will be conducted in a professional, confidential, respectful and collegial manner.
- Logistics (venue, invitations, materials, FI research updates, etc.) will be organized and provided by the Network.
- Peer Review will be facilitated by a professional(s) with forensic interviewing experience and knowledge and familiarity with the CAC model.
- All team members who are conducting forensic interviews at the CAC are expected to attend at least 2 peer review sessions, per year.
- The interview review portion may only be attended by trained forensic interviewers who are currently conducting interviews at a CAC, the Network Coordinator with appropriate forensic interviewer experience and training, and the co-facilitators.
- Co-facilitators will serve for one year. New facilitators will be elected by the Peer Review Team each May.
- Interviews will be selected by individual interviewers. The co-facilitators will be responsible for ensuring that a diverse selection of interviewers have the opportunity to be reviewed by their peers.
- Individual interviewers will be responsible for ensuring that the interviews provided for peer review are related to closed cases and that the non-offending caregiver has signed a release that allows the DVD to be used for training purposes.
- All participants will sign a confidentiality agreement before each monthly peer review.
- Before an interview is reviewed, the interviewer will introduce the case, provide success and challenges and request specific feedback from the review team.
- After an interview is reviewed, the completed Forensic Interview Tools will go to the interviewer.