

Corroborative Points Investigative Technique

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The **Corroborative Points Investigative Technique** is not a departure from, but an addition to, the traditional *Who, What, When, Where, and Why* of an investigation. It seeks to place the investigator inside the mindset of prosecutors who are required to bolster (corroborate) every statement, element, and point made in the child abuse case. It is a multidisciplinary investigative team procedure for documenting details from a forensic interviewer for investigative follow up.

Corroborative Points have different “values.” Some, such as a detailed confession, can stand alone. Others, such as theme pornography, may not prove an offense, they are still supportive of the allegation. Better yet, *Constellations of Corroborative Points*, though individually circumstantial, can – and have – the ability to assist in making cases.

An investigator’s effectiveness is rooted in his ability to know and utilize the advantages and disadvantages of the techniques listed below and, with consideration of certain *Windows of Opportunity**, administer them in a **timely** investigative manner. Corroborative Points should be viewed the same way one views a carpenter and his tools: the more tools a carpenter has mastered, the more ornate the project.

Multidisciplinary skills-based training in our communities should focus instruction on these “skill sets.”

Below is a list of the more common areas of corroboration. A requirement for a corroborative points investigative team is a detailed forensic interview.

Corroborative Points**

Confession	Canvassing
Crime scene	Trash runs/abandoned property
Medical examination	Social history
Independent other victims	Pornography
Dependent other victims	Background check
Criminal history	Other sexual partners
Pre-text phone calls	Photo documentation
Search warrants	Collateral witnesses
Sex offender typology	Polygraph
Private databases	

*Investigative Windows of Opportunity

** Each is discussed in more detail during training