



...regarding the Dynamics of Child Sexual Abuse

- 1. The GAL court report should include recommendations for age appropriate services for a child who is a victim of child abuse.** Possible services could include treatment planning, support groups, family counseling, individual counseling, and peer support.
- 2. GALs are mandated reporters of child abuse (including sexual abuse) as are teachers, medical providers and others who work with children.** -- To make a report call 1-800-962-2873 or complete your report online at <https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us/>.
- 3. A key component of advocacy is providing the caregivers with general information about available services for the child and themselves.** --A GAL should be aware of services offered in their community. Contact your GAL Advocacy Team for information on local support.
- 4. If a child discloses abuse to you, respond with compassion and call the child abuse hotline right away. Be sure to notify your advocacy team!**
- 5. Many children can recover with caregiver support and access to accurate information, crisis support and advocacy services.** To locate a CAC near you, go to the Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers website: www.fnccac.org.
- 6. Young children rarely need or benefit from independent relationships with professionals.** They depend primarily on their caregiver to create the sense of security and support they need.
- 7. Be mindful of your own feelings regarding the abuse that occurred to the child.** The child may still have a sense of loyalty and/or feelings of affection towards the perpetrator.



- 8. Children who are confident and feel good about themselves are less vulnerable to abuse.** A GAL can contribute to improving and strengthening a child's self-confidence.

- 9. A GAL can share information with their child and caregiver about how to avoid online predators.** How much information the child shares in their profile on sites like **FACEBOOK, TWITTER, or INSTAGRAM**, etc. should be monitored.

- 10. Make sure you have received and reviewed all of the medical and mental health assessments for your GAL child.** Your recommendations for services should be guided by the professionals!

- 11. Your recommendations to the Court should include services the child's primary caregiver may need.** They should also participate in counseling!

- 12. Make sure the type of counseling for the child is age appropriate.** Younger children most often participate in play therapy combined with the therapeutic use of imagination and activities.

- 13. The child should have a "voice" beyond the courtroom.** Be sure to participate in all case staffings, case plan conferences, and meetings regarding the child's educational needs and future.

- 14. Help the child focus on being a child.** If you are approved to transport, take the child on outings they may enjoy. If they show an interest in any extracurricular activities, seek any funding that may be needed.