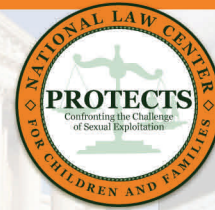


# The Enforcer

A Publication of the NLC PROTECTS Training Program



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## National Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy Center

*By Holly Hopper, National Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy Center (NDEC-TAC)*



According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse released April 16, 2009, 8.3 million children live in a home with one parent who was addicted within the past year of the study and 2.1 million children live with a parent who is addicted to an illicit substance. These children represent the largest percentage of substantiated child abuse cases.

Unfortunately, many of these children are seen by law enforcement and even social services but fail to be identified as a victim of abuse. Children in drug homes are raised in environments where drug use is the norm. They are taught to keep the secrets of their home and to become as invisible as possible so the parent's addiction is not interrupted. Commonly these children are threatened with abandonment and told they are an unwanted mistake. They do not trust, they do not talk, and sadly, many of them do not feel. In children who are identified, alarming rates of previously unidentified abuse may be uncovered. Bedwetting and nightmares serve as the indicators of the horror they have experienced rather than a descriptive police report describing the home environment and a child's behavior.

Children may be quiet and smiling yet the nuances of behavior may be the only indicators of the threatening circumstances that are this child's life. It is not uncommon for children who have experienced significant neglect to follow investigating officers around the scene and to seek his attention. It is also no surprise when children greet law enforcement with spitting, kicking, and resistance. Often, this is a symbol of self-preservation, an act of loyalty a child sees as necessary to preserve his life once authorities are gone. This child knows that despite disruptions, his life will one day return to normal. The secrets will not be uncovered and the threats given to him by his parents seem true.

Drug Endangerment status is determined when children are exposed to environments where illicit or diverted substances are manufactured or sold, or personal use results in sexual abuse, sexual exchange or bartering of child for drugs; medical, educational, or physical neglect; physical abuse; near fatality or fatality; or emotional abuse resulting in PTSD, trauma, horror, or mental health disorder. These effects are observed in many of the children but remain hidden unless a child is interviewed.

Children who are not provided services that can help them understand and process their experiences and associated feelings are more likely to turn to destructive actions including substance abuse, violence, and self harm. Looking at current juvenile and adult inmate populations and individuals currently participating in drug rehabilitation hospitals, the stories of un-rescued children are all too easy to find.

*Continued on page 2*

## National Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy Center (Continued)

The National Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy Center seeks to address the needs of these children by offering a uniformed, aggressive law enforcement response that holds abusive parents accountable for the maltreatment of their children and increases the likelihood of identifying victimization inflicted by others. Unfortunately, our work has illuminated to us new and disturbing trends of using children as a new currency in the drug world. Non-verbal children are the most valuable and a majority of cases that have come to our attention involve children aged 0-6. These are children who are easily manipulated and are the least likely to be put on a witness stand. The second most common age group include young teen girls who present as pregnant or as a child testing positive for drugs. These girls tend to be ignored by the system because of their positive toxicology status, but a few simple questions just may reveal the truth. Many of the teens that have received advocacy have a history of testing positive for drugs, have poor school attendance (often as far back as Kindergarten), and have a history of removals but due to age have increasing unsubstantiated child reports in her social services case file. One supportive interview that is done with understanding and not rejection or blame has helped in the identification of sex offenders who prey on the children of addicts.



Laws are limited to address each of the issues facing children. There are gaping loop-holes that result in manipulations of addicted women so that unsafe individuals are able to gain legal custody of children, to the limited voice children have because they are viewed as too young or too unreliable to contribute meaningful information that will result in the successful prosecution of a case.

We know that children are walking, talking witnesses, but they are also victims. Their bodies hold amounts of the drug their parents, use, manufacture or sell. Their bodies are the currency that funds their parent's addiction when money is unavailable and the mother's body is rejected. It is our calling, our challenge, to investigate these cases and to rescue endangered children.

*Holly Hopper is National Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy Center (NDEC-TAC)*

For more information, visit [www.drugendangeredchild.org](http://www.drugendangeredchild.org)

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## NLC PROTECTS Seminar in Tampa and Houston – a Success!



**Tampa, FL:** The National Law Center for Children and Families wrapped up its 20th PROTECTS seminar which took place at the Corporate Training Center – Hillsborough Community College on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Law enforcement and probation and parole officers, who came from various Florida jurisdictions, joined us in Tampa to receive training on sex offender management, basic computer/ internet forensics and other child exploitation issues.

Richard Whidden, the Executive Director of the National Law Center, was very pleased with the organization’s first seminar in 2010:

*“We are pleased with the response to the 20<sup>th</sup> NLC PROTECTS Seminar. It is a milestone for our organization to have produced quality training for about 1900 attendees from coast to coast.”*

The organization also received positive feedback from seminar participants. One attendee states:

*“Enjoyed seminar very much, will attend future seminars.”* Another adds: *“Outstanding information. Thank you!”*

The National Law Center would like to thank participants, speakers and expo partners and who contributed to the success.



**Houston, TX:** The 21<sup>st</sup> NLC PROTECTS Seminar was held in Houston last week. Law enforcement officers from all over Texas attended the two day event which took place at the Minute Maid Park on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Attendees received training on topics such as “Nontraditional Forums of Child Exploitation”, “Basic Computer and Internet Forensics”, “Computer Evidence-Collection and Preservation”, “Sex Offender Registration Training” and other issues related to child exploitation crimes.

*“We were pleased with the content delivered to our audience in Houston. The attendees heard from a great group of experts on Child Exploitation Crimes and Sex Offender Management.”* said Richard Whidden, Executive Director of the National Law Center. *“We are excited to have surpassed 1900 attendees at our 21 seminars and look forward to future opportunities to meet and train child defenders across the nation.”*

The National Law Center’s next NLC PROTECTS Seminar will be in San Diego on May 20-21. Registration is available at [www.nationallawcenter.org](http://www.nationallawcenter.org).



# Updates from the Battle Against Child Exploitation

## VIRGINIA MAN SENTENCED FOR ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE SEX WITH MINOR

**Louisa, VA:** According to the Washington Post, 55-year old George Spiker Jr was sentenced to 100 years imprisonment for intending to have sex with a minor.

Prosecutors working on the case stated that the defendant entered a chat room and offered a minor clothing, jewelry and money for college in exchange for sexual act. In addition, Spiker used a webcam to expose himself. He then later drove to meet what he thought was a 13-year old girl. Instead of meeting the female, Spiker met officers from the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

A Louisa County judge sentenced him to 100 year in prison for attempting to have sex with a child younger than 15 over the Internet.

## MAN GETS 3 LIFE TERMS IN PRISON FOR SEX ASSAULT AND CHILD PORN

**Houston, TX:** Rodney Williams, 23, has been sentenced to three life terms in prison for sexual assaulting a 5-year old girl and 720 years more for possessing child pornography.

According to investigators the case began last July when his wife found a camera with digital images of Williams sexually assaulting a child. In addition, investigators also recovered more than 70 images of child pornography on his computers.

The defendant must now serve three life sentences for assaulting a child under the age of 6 and was also sentenced to 720 years in prison for possessing disturbing images of child pornography on his computer and digital camera.

## A PENSACOLA MAN CONVICTED FOR THE THIRD TIME FOR CHILD EXPLOITATION

**Pensacola, FL:** According to the Santa Rosa's Press Gazette, fifty-one year old Kevin Simkins was convicted for child exploitation and sentenced to 20 years in federal prison and lifetime supervision upon his release.

The defendant has previously been convicted in the state of Florida for interfering with the custody of a child. His second conviction was in the state of Georgia for molesting his granddaughter. This time the defendant was sentenced on charges of possession of child pornography.

Judge M. Casey Rodgers told the court that "it appeared he could not control his behavior and that she was therefore very concerned with protecting the public from further crimes by Simkins."



# Updates from the Battle Against Child Exploitation

## PHOTOGRAPHER 7C BJ=7H98 FOR CHILD PORN

**Chattanooga, TN:** Lead suspect fifty-seven year old Gary Salles stepped right into a police trap as he tried selling child pornography and methamphetamine to an undercover agent. Police Chief Dennis Young from the Winchester Police Department was monitoring a surveillance from a motel room as Salles allegedly drove from Atlanta with 450 computer files of children

of children engaging in sexual acts.

Gary Salles, a dance club photographer and self claimed mentor to gay and lesbian adolescents allegedly brought \$2000 worth of crystal meth to Winchester.

The defendant later admitted that he became involved in child pornography and meth after he lost his job at IBM in 2007 according to police.

Investigators alleged they found over 14000 disturbing images of child pornography on Salles computer. "To see the videos, firsthand, that he was sharing, that was exciting to him. For example, a 4-year-old being raped, molested. You know, he would really get excited," said Chief Dennis Young, Winchester, TN, Police Department.

Further investigation revealed that Salles also ran a sophisticated Website called "bois-4men.com" which proved that the defendant encouraged other pedophiles to act upon their fantasies. In addition, investigators stated that Mr. Salles wanted to plan a party for which attendees are required to bring a small boy for admittance.

Salles later admitted at federal sentencing to selling drugs and distributing child pornography but denied the fact that he ever planned parties with young boys.

Gary Salles was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

## O.C. MAN SENTENCED FOR MOLESTING AND KIDNAPPING THREE GIRLS

**OfUb[ YCci blm California:** According to Los Angeles Times, school bus driver, Terry Shields, from Buena Park was found guilty of kidnapping and molesting three young girls, ages 4,7, and 11, from 2000 to 2004.

The defendant met two of the minors while working as a school bus driver for the Los Alamitos School District. Shields used to babysit the 11-year old and 4-year old, who are sisters. He molested the 4-year-old from April 18 to 21, 2002, and her 11-year-old sister on Feb. 18, 2002.

The 54year old man was arrested after an employee at a Bellflower cyber café caught him looking at child pornography.

After further investigations, thousands of pornographic images of children, infants and toddlers were found as well as girls' underwear, photographic material and toys and candy to lure the children.

Last December, the defendant was sentenced to 151 years to life in prison for molesting and taking pornographic photographs of young girls.



## 22<sup>nd</sup> NLC PROTECTS Seminar in San Diego



The National Law Center for Children and Families moved its San Diego seminar to the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May. The two day event will take place at the Al Bahr Shrine Center located at 5440 Kearny Mesa Road, San Diego, California 92111. Come join us at our seminar in California where experienced presenters will teach on sex offender management and various child exploitation issues such as investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

The deadline to register for the San Diego Seminar is May 14<sup>th</sup>. Sign up and save a seat today!

**SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!!!**

For more information on upcoming seminars, including registration forms, travel stipend information and deadlines, visit [www.nlcprotects.org](http://www.nlcprotects.org). If you are interested in having a NLC Protects seminar in your area, please send an e-mail to [jbarney@nationallawcenter.org](mailto:jbarney@nationallawcenter.org) or call us at 703-548-5522.



  
**CAC**  
**Houston Metro**  
**Internet Crimes Against Children**

**We're here because THEY are out there!**



On April 5th, 2010, Rodney Kevin Williams pleaded guilty to 74 separate charges of sexual exploitation of children in the 262nd District Court of Harris County, Texas (Houston). Williams was sentenced to three life terms in prison in the Texas for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Young Child, 20 years in prison for Promotion of Child Pornography, and 10 years in prison on each of 70 counts of Possession of Child Pornography. Each sentence was the maximum possible for the charge under Texas law for a total of 1,020 years in prison.

The case against Rodney Kevin Williams was investigated by Sgt. Gary Spurger of Harris County Constables Office Pct 4 and prosecuted by ADA Eric Devlin of the Harris County District Attorney's Office, both members of the Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce. Sgt. Spurger after receiving information from a friend of the suspect executed a search warrant on a house located in a suburb of Houston. The warrant led to the rescue of a five year-old victim of William's sexual assaults and the reunification of the child with her mother.

Assistant Attorney Eric Devlin joined the National Law Center for Children and Families at the 21st PROTECTS Seminar in Houston on April 19th and 20th. His presentations included: "Beyond the Computer: Non-Traditional Forums of Child Exploitation" and "The Face behind the Picture: Child Exploitation the Victim Crime". The NLC would like to thank Eric Devlin for being part of its seminar series.

## Calendar of Upcoming Training Events

### May

- 11-14** Internet Crimes against Children Task Force  
**2010 ICAC National Conference**  
*Jacksonville, FL*  
[www.cacconference.org](http://www.cacconference.org)
- 17-21** National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
**Protecting Children Online (PCO)**  
*Kansas City, MO*  
[Www.ncmec.org](http://Www.ncmec.org)
- 20-21** National Law Center for Children and Families  
**NLC PROTECTS Seminar**  
*San Diego, CA*  
[www.nationallawcenter.org](http://www.nationallawcenter.org)

### June

- 7-8** National Child Protection Training Center  
**From Crime Scene to Trial**  
*Winona, MN*  
[www.ncptc.org](http://www.ncptc.org)
- 7- 11** The National Children's Advocacy Center  
**Extended Forensics Evaluation**  
*Huntsville, AL*  
[www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org)
- 14-18** The National Children's Advocacy Center  
**Forensics Interview of Children**  
*Huntsville, AL*  
[www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org)

Please visit the websites listed above for the most current information regarding course offerings, including dates and locations, registration deadlines, and forms.

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## NLC Advanced Training is Available



Contact us at  
[jbarney@nationallawcenter.org](mailto:jbarney@nationallawcenter.org)  
for more information.

**NLC PROTECTS Advanced Training** is a customized curriculum for law enforcement, providing greater depth of training in one or more specific topics, such as:

- Child pornography legal overview
- Child exploitation case studies and prosecution tips
- Human trafficking
- Interview and interrogation techniques
- Sex offender management
- State and federal laws related to crimes against children
- Introductions to computer, Internet and digital forensic investigations
- Other topics of local interest



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