

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Course Title

*A Systemic Approach to Assessment and Treatment of Families with Sexually Abused Children*

## Instructor

Eliana Gil, Ph.D., Director of Clinical Services, Childhelp Children's Center of Virginia

## Course Description

This day-long course will discuss the way in which all family members are affected when sexual abuse occurs and how each family member must participate in a reparative and preventive process. In particular, we will look at how individual issues, such as unresolved past traumas, affect the development of a climate in which sexual abuse can emerge. Particular attention will be paid to unresolved traumatic experiences that can be unconsciously re-enacted signaling that trauma work is necessary. This workshop will also discuss the potential for reunification under specific circumstances.

## Course Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- List two issues relevant to nonabused siblings;
- Define a "systemic approach;"
- List three family dynamics that occur with frequency in families with sexually abused children;
- Discuss two ways that intrafamilial abuse is different from extrafamilial abuse;
- List two high risk factors for sexually abused children within their family systems;
- List two pre-requisites to family reunification in child sexual abuse cases;
- Define "unresolved traumatic memories.

## Outline

9:00	-	10:30	A systemic approach to understanding intrafamilial sexual abuse
10:30	-	10:45	Break
10:45	-	12:00	The issues of unresolved traumas and behavioral re-enactments
12:00	-	1:00	Lunch
1:00	-	2:30	Treatment issues and special challenges
2:30	-	2:45	Break
2:45	-	4:00	Issues of reunification and prevention