

**CIRCUMSTANCES THAT INFLUENCE THE  
FINALISATION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES  
IN TEMBISA**

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**Circumstances that influence the finalisation of child  
sexual abuse cases in Tembisa**

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# STATEMENT

I, Morentho Johanna Ntlatleng, hereby state that the manuscript with the title:

***Circumstances that influence the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa***

is my own work.

.....

MJ Ntlatleng

.....

Date

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>I</b>
<b>STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>II</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>III</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>V</b>
<b>OPSOMMING</b> .....	<b>VII</b>
<b>FOREWORD</b> .....	<b>IX</b>
<b>INTRUCTIONS TO THE AUTHORS</b> .....	<b>X</b>
<b>CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING THE FINALISATION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES IN TEMBISA</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2. PROBLEM STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3. AIM AND OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3.1 AIM.....	4
3.2 OBJECTIVES.....	4
<b>4. CENTRAL THEORETICAL STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>5</b>
5.1 LITERATURE REVIEW .....	5
5.2 EMPIRICAL RESEARCH .....	5
5.2.1 <i>Research Design</i> .....	5
5.2.2 <i>Participants</i> .....	6
5.2.3 <i>Measuring instruments</i> .....	6
5.2.4 <i>Procedures</i> .....	6
5.2.5 <i>Data analyses</i> .....	7
5.2.6 <i>Ethical issues</i> .....	7
<b>6. SHORTCOMINGS OF THE RESEARCH</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>7. PROJECT OUTLINE</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>8. DEFINITION OF TERMINOLOGY</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>9. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
9.1 IDENTIFYING DATA OF THE RESPONDENTS.....	10
9.2 DATA RECEIVED FROM THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS .....	13
9.2.1 <i>Working experience in FCS Unit</i> .....	13
9.2.2 <i>Qualifications and attending FCS courses</i> .....	13
9.2.3 <i>Detective learning programme</i> .....	15
9.2.4 <i>Case load of respondents</i> .....	16
9.3 DATA RECEIVED FROM THE PROSECUTORS .....	18
9.4 DATA RECEIVED FROM SOCIAL WORKER .....	20

9.4.1	<i>Experience and qualifications of social workers</i> .....	20
9.4.2	<i>Standby duties</i> .....	22
9.4.3	<i>Case load of social workers</i> .....	23
9.4.4	<i>Circumstances that influence the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases</i> .....	24
<b>10.</b>	<b>OBSERVATION OF THE RESEARCHER</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>27</b>
	<b>ADDENDUM</b> .....	<b>34</b>
	<b>TITLE OF RESEARCH: CIRCUMSTANCES THAT INFLUENCE THE FINALISATION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES IN TEMBISA</b> .....	<b>34</b>

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1:	Experience in sexual abuse cases.....	12
Table 2:	Working in fcs unig .....	13
Table 3:	Sexual abuse cases .....	18

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1:	Occupation .....	10
Figure 2:	Organization .....	11
Figure 3:	Employment experience .....	12
Figure 4:	Qualification .....	14
Figure 5:	FCS course .....	14
Figure 6:	Results of respondent 1.....	16
Figure 7:	Results of respondent 2.....	16
Figure 8:	Results of respondent 3.....	16
Figure 9:	Results of respondent 4.....	16
Figure 10:	Experience .....	21
Figure 11:	The procedure of handling sexual abuse cases.....	25

# SUMMARY

## **Circumstances that influence the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa**

**Keywords:** Child, investigating officer, probation officer, prosecutor, social work, sexual abuse.

Child sexual abuse is a major problem in Africa. There are a large number of child sexual abuse cases which are opened on a monthly basis. Child sexual abuse is a very sensitive issue and therefore trained professionals are needed in order to deal with the issue. Proper investigations need to be conducted.

Due to the sensitive nature of child sexual abuse cases, finalising such cases successfully becomes a major problem. Numerous departments play a role in the investigation of these cases such as the National Prosecuting Authority, the South African Police Service, the Department of Social Development, the Department of Health, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), etcetera.

The community does not have an understanding of how these cases are dealt with and, as a result, they blame the police for not doing their work properly and being useless. The role players also blame one another for the unsuccessful prosecution of perpetrators in cases of child sexual abuse. For example, prosecutors may blame the police for poor investigations and the police may, in turn, blame prosecutors for releasing suspects from custody unreasonably and removing cases off the roll for no apparent reasons. Social workers may also be blamed for not doing their work properly and taking too long to submit the assessment reports. Doctors may also be blamed for failing to attend court hearings and for filing incomplete reports.

Although the role players have their inadequacies in investigating these cases, the truth is that each of them has their own unique protocol for handling cases of child sexual abuse. Therefore, a need emerged to explore the circumstances that affect the finalisation of child sexual abuse.

In response to this, a qualitative study based in Tembisa was conducted. The **aim** of the study was to identify the circumstances that contribute to the finalisation of child sexual

abuse cases in Tembisa. From the survey it was clear that there are several contributing factors, such as the delay of DNA results, inadequate training of the role players, and service points that are understaffed. The researcher came to the conclusion that the successful prosecution of child sexual abuse cases lies with all the role players in the investigation of child sexual abuse.

# OPSOMMING

## **Omstandighede wat die afhandeling van sake in seksuele mishandeling van ‘n kind in Tembisa beïnvloed**

**Sleuteltermes** kind, ondersoekbeampte, proefbeampte, aanklaer, maatskaplike werk, seksuele mishandeling”.

Die seksuele mishandeling van kinders is ‘n groot probleem in Afrika. Daar word elke maand ‘n groot aantal sake van seksuele kindermishandeling aanhangig gemaak. Die seksuele mishandeling van kinders is ‘n baie sensitiewe saak wat die aandag van opgeleide kundiges vereis. Ondersoeke moet deeglik gedoen word.

As gevolg van die sensitiewe aard van hierdie sake kan die suksesvolle afhandeling daarvan groot probleme inhou. Ondersoeke na seksuele kindermishandeling betrek verskeie departemente soos die Nasionale Vervolgingsgesag, die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie, die Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling, die Departement van Gesondheid, nie-regeringsorganisasies, ensovoorts.

Omdat die gemeenskap nie verstaan hoe sake van seksuele kindermishandeling hanteer word nie, word die polisie dikwels daarvan beskuldig dat hulle nutteloos is en nie hul werk ordentlik doen nie. Verskillende rolspelers beskuldig mekaar ook maklik vir die onsuksesvolle vervolging van oortreders in sake van seksuele kindermishandeling. Aanklaers mag byvoorbeeld die polisie vir swak ondersoeke blameer terwyl die polisie aanklaers daarvan beskuldig dat hulle verdagtes te maklik vrylaat en sake sonder meer van die hofrol af verwyder. Maatskaplike werkers word daarvan beskuldig dat hulle onbevoeg is of te lank neem om verslae in te handig, en dokters word daarvoor blameer dat hulle nie graag verhore bywoon nie en onvolledige verslae inhandig.

Hoewel alle ondersoeke tot ‘n mate gebrekkig is, het elke rolspeler ‘n unieke protokol waarvolgens hulle sake van seksuele kindermishandeling hanteer. As gevolg hiervan het ‘n behoefte ontstaan om die omstandighede rondom die afhandeling van seksuele-kindermishandelingsake te ondersoek.

In reaksie hierop het die navorser ‘n kwalitatiewe studie in Tembisa geloods. Die doel van die studie was om faktore te identifiseer wat bydra tot die afhandeling van sake van

seksuele kindermishandeling. Uit die opname was dit duidelik dat verskeie bykomende faktore 'n invloed het, byvoorbeeld: oponthoude met DNS-resultate, onvoldoende opleiding van rolspelers en personeeltekorte by dienspunte. Die navorser het tot die gevolgtrekking gekom dat die suksesvolle afhandeling van 'n saak van seksuele mishandeling van die kind absoluut afhanklik is van al die rolspelers wat 'n bydrae tot die ondersoek lewer.

## FOREWORD

The article format has been chosen in accordance with Regulations A.7.2.3 as stipulated in the 2008 yearbook of the North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, for the degree MA Social Work: Forensic Practice. The article will comply with the requirements of one of the journals in social work, titled *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk*.

This article comprises 60 credits out of a total of 188 credits of the MA Social Work in Forensic Practice course.

# INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AUTHORS

The article will be submitted to the *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk* journal for potential publication in the journal

## **EDITORIAL POLICY: SOCIAL WORK/MAATSKAPLIKE WERK**

The journal publishes articles, brief communications, book reviews and commentary articles already published from the field of Social Work. Contributions may be written in English or Afrikaans. All contributions will be critically reviewed by at least two referees on whose advice contributions will be accepted or rejected by the editorial committee. All refereeing is strictly confidential. Manuscripts may be returned to the authors if extensive revision is required or if the style of presentation does not conform to the practice. Commentary on articles already published in the journal must be submitted with appropriate captions, the name(s) and address(es) of the author(s), preferably not exceeding 5 pages. The entire manuscript must be submitted, plus one clear copy as well as a diskette with all the text, preferably in MS Word (Word Perfect) or ACSII. Manuscripts must be typed, double spaced on the side of the A4 paper only. Use the Harvard system for references. Short references in the text: When word-for-word quotations, facts or arguments from other sources are cited, the surname(s), year of publication and the page number(s) must appear in parenthesis in the text, e.g. "...” (Berger, 1976:12). More details concerning sources referred to in the text should appear at the end of the manuscript under the caption "References". The sources must be arranged alphabetically according to the surnames of the authors.

# **Circumstances that influence the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Numerous government departments play a role in the investigation of child sexual abuse cases. Amongst all the role players, the South African Police Service, Department of Justice and the Departments of Social Development and Population Development are the major role players in the investigation of these cases. Without any doubt the successful prosecution of these cases depends on the hard work of the aforementioned departments. Fouché and Joubert (2009:41) points out that child sexual abuse is not new to contemporary society. However, it remains a pressing social concern and when it comes to light, people directly involved are staggered. The researcher therefore found a need to conduct a survey regarding the circumstances that affect the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa.

## **2. PROBLEM STATEMENT**

South Africa has an increasingly high rate of sexual abuse cases (Rape Crises, 2009). According to Van Niekerk (2004:266), there has been “*a massive increase (in the region of 400%) in the number of cases presenting over the past eight or nine years*”. In a study done by Collings (2008:12), there was a steady and significant increase in the average age of survivors from 7.7 years to 10.3 years. Approximately one-third of the survivors (34%) had been sexually abused by a family member, with the form of abuse involving either vaginal rape (92%), anal rape (4%), oral rape (2%), or manual genital contact (2%)” (Collings, 2008:12). According Berliner and Elliot (2002:56), the precise incidence and prevalence of child sexual abuse in the general population is not known, because most children do not want to disclose and most sexual abuse is not reported.

Spies (2006:44) indicates that sexual activities and abuse between children and adults will always have a negative effect on the life of the child. According to Belinger and Elliot (2002:59-61), child sexual abuse has the following effects on a child: emotional distress and dysfunction, post-traumatic effects, behavioural problems, interpersonal consequences, as well as cognitive difficulties and distortions. All children who are abused are left with some scars (Berlinger, 2003:14).

According to Eastwood *et al.* (2006:1), the successful criminal prosecution of a sexual offence against a child is more difficult to secure than for any other offence. In South Africa but also in other countries such as Australia, there are a small number of reported sexual offences against children that result in a conviction. According to Eastwood *et al.* (2006:2), of the 6500 child sexual offences reported to the Queensland Police Service each year, just over one half of these offences will come before the lower courts, one quarter before the higher courts, and 17% will result in conviction. These are also the circumstances in South Africa, according to Eastwood *et al.* (2006:2). In South Africa there are also a number of child sexual abuse cases that encounter problems during finalisation. Role players in the field of child sexual abuse agree that there are many difficulties and problems in the finalisation of child sexual abuse as well as the prosecutions of these cases.

Spies (2006:59) agrees that the sexually abused child cannot heal without the support of people who really care for him/her and who understands his/her pain. The disclosure of sexual abuse of a child is very important and has to be handled very carefully. Many children who are abused never come to the attention of professionals such as the social worker (Pipe *et al.*, 2007:3). If the disclosure is not handled carefully, it can have serious effects on the child (Draucker & Martshof, 2006:44).

The biggest challenge for the social worker dealing with child sexual abuse lies in the first interview and the effective interviewing of the child to ensure successful criminal prosecution can take place. Improper interviewing leads to errors in decision making by the social worker regarding child safety and prosecution (Mogole, 2008:2, Stern & Walsh, 1997:10).

As part of the multi-professional team, social workers play a very important part in the finalisation of these cases (Segal *et al.*, 2007:170). For the social worker it is very important to finalise the abuse case as soon as possible. However, in practice social

workers and other role players in the field of child sexual abuse experience difficulties in handling some of the cases. For the social worker, it is important not to come to misjudgements about these abuse cases (Kirst-Ashman & Hull, 2006: 402). This is one of the reasons why these investigations take more time than expected. One of the causes of finalisation difficulties is the inexperience of a lot of social workers in South Africa. Because of the high turnover of social workers in most NGOs and government, it is mostly inexperienced social workers who finalise these cases.

In research done by Modise (2008:28-29), it was found that the social workers in the Madibeng municipality were "*inexperienced in terms of assessing sexually abused children because of lack of skills and knowledge*". The same author considers this a situation not restricted to the Madibeng municipality; it is also the situation at other service points. Doyle (1995:99) cites the lack of knowledge as another failure in the assessment of the abused child and finalization of the case.

Lack of human resources is another factor that contributes to the finalisation of sexual abuse cases. For instance, in the South African Police Service there are only six social workers in Gauteng province who assist the courts in the forensic assessments of sexually abused children. This is such a small number and it signifies that each social worker is responsible for more than ten police stations. Consequently, this results in cases not being finalised because of outstanding assessment reports.

Delays at laboratories also prolong the investigation process as the police have to wait for a period of about 18 months or more to get DNA results. In Tembisa, for example, approximately 60 cases were removed from the roll because DNA results were still outstanding.

Children's ability to testify in court is also a challenge that can contribute to the finalisation of the case. The context in which they provide their reports can prolong the investigation process. According to Walker (1988:119), it is important to understand the context in which child victims provide their reports. Children can be accurate witnesses if handled properly, but the adversary system is often harsh in its dealings with children. This is exactly the case in Tembisa. The criminal justice system is often harsh in its dealings with children. Part of this harshness stems from the number of interviews the child must endure. Children may have to describe repeatedly what happened, and this repetition may become aversive. Defence attorneys almost always argue that children

are so suggestible that their reports cannot be believed. They try to support their contention by arguing that the child's parents, the interviewer, or the child's peers "brainwashed" the child into believing that the event occurred when, in fact, it did not.

In a study done by Loffell (2000:6) about effective service delivery towards child sexual abuse cases in South Africa, she experienced problems such as the management of these cases by the police, continued delay of court proceedings, and the absence of coordination between the different role players in these cases.

Looking at the above, the following questions can be asked:

- **What are the circumstances that contribute to the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa?**
- **What recommendations can be made to overcome these circumstances?**

### **3. AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aim**

- To identify circumstances that influence the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa.

#### **3.2 Objectives**

- To investigate the factors that influence the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa.
- To come up with recommendations to prevent the delay in the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa.

### **4. CENTRAL THEORETICAL STATEMENT**

The finalisation of sexual abuse cases in Tembisa can be hastened if circumstances that contribute to the delay of these cases, improve.

## **5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

According to Neuman (2003:68), methodology refers to the techniques that a particular discipline uses to manipulate data to acquire knowledge. This research will consist of a literature study and empirical survey.

### **5.1 Literature review**

The goal of a literature review, according to Neuman (2000:446), is to demonstrate the researcher's familiarity with a body of knowledge in order to establish credibility to show a path of prior knowledge, to integrate and summarise what is known in the area of the study, and to learn from others while creating new ideas. The literature review consisted of sources off the internet, journals, books, and research studies. O'Leary (2004:66) states: "*I not only use all the brains I have, but all that I can borrow.*"

For the purpose of this study an investigation will be conducted into the existing literature on the roles different role players – such as the police and prosecutors – have in the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases. The central focus of this study is the factors that influence the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases. Investigation of existing literature revealed that there is insufficient literature and even less research pertaining to this topic.

A variety of databases were used such as EBSCO HOST WEB; NEXUS; Scholarly Journal; Social Science Index; Social Work Abstracts; ERIC; government documents.

### **5.2 Empirical Research**

#### **5.2.1 Research Design**

According to Grinnell (2001:547), a research design is a plan which includes every aspect of a proposed research study. The research design utilized in this study was the exploratory design: it focused on exploring some of the circumstances that play a role in the finalisation of sexual abuse cases. According to Fouché and De Vos (2005:134), the purpose of the exploratory design is to gain insight into a situation and the phenomena. With regard to the study, the researcher explored the factors that influence the delay in the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases, especially in the Tembisa area.

## 5.2.2 Participants

The population selected by the researcher was from Tembisa. The sample was drawn from role players in child abuse cases from Tembisa and consisted of social workers, probation officers and investigating officers.

In this study the researcher utilized purposive sampling. According to Strydom (2005a:202) purposive sampling is based entirely on the judgment of the researcher, in that the sample is composed of elements that contain the most characteristic, representative or typical attributes of the population. Bless *et al.* (2006: 106) is also of the same opinion that purposive/ judgmental sampling is based on the judgment of the researcher regarding the characteristics of a representative sample. The sample consisted of 2 social workers, 4 prosecutors, and 4 investigating officers (police) from Tembisa that have experience in child sexual abuse cases.

## 5.2.3 Measuring instruments

The survey was used to collect data in this study and specifically the one- to-one interview (Greeff, 2005:286). According to Neuman (1997:30), gathering data for research is divided into two categories, namely qualitative and quantitative. For the purpose of this research, a reconnaissance survey was done, which involved identifying all role players in child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa. Secondly, an interviewing schedule was compiled by the researcher herself to explore factors contributing to the delay of the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa. A self-administered schedule was used as a tool to collect data. The schedule, containing both open and closed-ended questions was pre-tested and revisited before the final use. Open-ended questions gave the respondents the opportunity to express their views on the issues being investigated (Greeff, 2005:288). The advantage of personally-administered schedules is that the researcher has more control over the response rate and receives firsthand information that is reliable and accurate (Delpont & Roestenburg, 2011:186).

## 5.2.4 Procedures

The following steps were followed during the research procedure:

- Selection of the participants.

- Preparation of the participants by explaining the nature of the research to them.
- Written and informed consent was obtained from the different participants. Every participant signed a consent form.
- Schedules were compiled in English.
- The schedules were tested with two people who were not included in the research.
- The schedules were completed by the researcher herself.

### 5.2.5 Data analyses

The quantitative data (closed-ended questions) were analyzed in terms of categories and transformed into statistically accessible forms by counting procedures (McKendrick, 1990:275). Pie charts, graphs, and tables were used to present the data. The open-ended questions were processed by the researcher herself. All the analyses were done under the guidance of the study leader, Dr AA Roux.

### 5.2.6 Ethical issues

According to Strydom (2005b:57), ethics *“is a set of moral principles which is suggested by an individual or group, is subsequently widely accepted, and which offers rules and behavioural expectations about the most correct conduct towards experimental subjects and respondents, employers, sponsors, other researchers, assistants and students”*.

In this study the following aspects were considered:

- It was ensured that the research does not impact negatively on respondents.
- Informed consent was obtained from all respondents.
- The schedules were completed anonymously and the names of the individuals were not and will not be disclosed.
- The importance of confidentiality was highly regarded. The researcher ensured the respondents that the information provided would remain confidential. The researcher is a social worker registered with the SA Council for Service Professions (Babbie, 2004:63-72; Van Zyl-Edeling & Pretorius, 2005: 107-113).

Written permission (**NWU-0027-09-51**) was obtained from the Ethics Committee of the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University.

## **6. SHORTCOMINGS OF THE RESEARCH**

The researcher struggled to get hold of the respondents, especially the prosecutors, as they were always busy in court. It was also not easy to interview the prosecutors individually as they had to be in court. The only time when they were available was their tea time and lunch time, so they had to compromise and as a result it took a long time to finalise the interviews

The researcher had to complete the closed-ended questions with the social workers. The social workers were not available for an entire day because they came in the morning and at 12:30 they already returned to their office in Germiston.

## **7. PROJECT OUTLINE**

The South African Police Service, where the prospective researcher is employed as forensic social worker, took administrative responsibilities for the study. The project was physically accommodated in Tembisa which is 7 km from where the researcher resides. The researcher carried out the study herself.

## **8. DEFINITION OF TERMINOLOGY**

### **➤ Child**

The Children's Act (38 of 2005) defines a child as a person under the age of 18 years. The New Dictionary of Social Work also defines a child in terms of the Child Care Act (74 of 1983) as a person under the age of 18 years. A child means any person under the age of 18, and in certain circumstances means a person who is 18 years or older but under the age of 21 years (Gallinetti 2009:13). When the researcher talks of a child in this study, it refers to a person under the age of 18 years who had a crime committed against him/her.

### **➤ Child sexual abuse**

According to Doyle (1994:8), child sexual abuse is "*an activity, relating to the sex organs, engaged in for sexual gratification which takes advantage of, violates or deceives children or younger people*". Sexual

abuse of a child is the involvement of adults and older children in sexual activities with children who cannot give appropriate consent and who do not understand the significance of what is happening to them (Philips, 2009:28.)

### ➤ **Social work**

The Social Work Dictionary defines a social worker as a person registered and authorized in accordance with the Social Work Act (110 of 1978) to practice social work. For the purpose of this research, a social worker refers to a probation officer who does the assessments of children who committed sexual offences. Kumar (2004:8) defines social work as follows: “*A profession that promotes social change and problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance wellbeing*”.

### ➤ **Social worker**

A social worker according to the New Dictionary of Social Work (1995:60), is a “*Person registered and authorized in accordance with the Social Work Act, 1978 (Act 110 of 1978) to practice social work*”. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behaviour; of social, economic, and cultural institutions; and the interaction of all these factors by social worker graduates (with either bachelor’s or master’s degree) “*who use their knowledge and skills to provide services for clients...*” (Zastrow, 2010: 5).

### ➤ **Police Officer**

According to Stevens (2009:17) every state or jurisdiction defines a police officer according to their own official state code. For instance, the State of Pennsylvania defines a police officer as “*any person who is by law given the power to arrest when acting within the scope of the person’s employment*”. On the other hand the code of the city of Davis, California, defines a police officer as “*any officer of the police department of the city or any officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violation of traffic regulations*”. In this research, however, the researcher used the term “investigating officer” instead of “police officer”. The investigating officer in this research refers to a member of the South African Police Service who is responsible for investigating crimes against children.

### ➤ **Prosecutor**

Stevens (2011:208) defines prosecutor according to their primary responsibility, which is to ensure that justice is served by administrating the laws and ordinances of the jurisdiction in a fair and impartial manner, a responsibility owed to everyone including the defendant. Stevens (2011:208) maintains that *“in terms of role definition a prosecutor is more than an avenger and an order maintainer, a prosecutor has an equal concern about the justice system that imposes punishment”*.

## 9. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

### 9.1 Identifying data of the respondents

#### ➤ Occupation of respondents

Respondents were asked what their occupations were and the following data was received:

**Figure 1: Occupation**

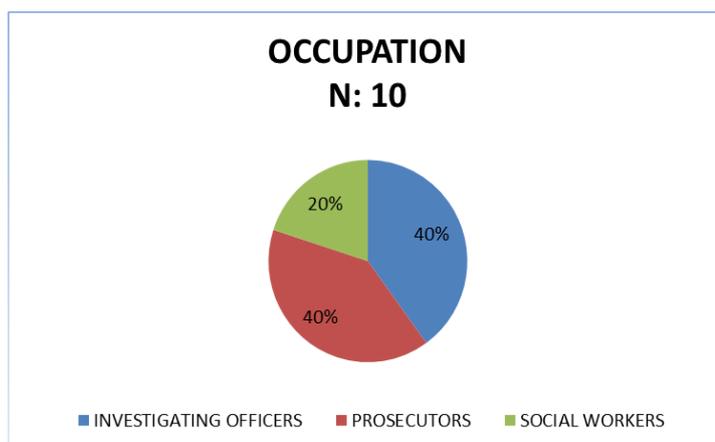


Figure 1 indicates that 4 (40%) were investigating officers (police), 4 (40%) of the respondents were prosecutors, while only 2 (20%) represent social workers.

The investigative role of the police is to establish whether an offence to a child or an adult has occurred and to attempt to identify the perpetrator of the offence (Browne, 2009:519-520). However, the police are not the only role players in handling the cases of child sexual abuse. Vermeulen (2005:166) argues that the police give cases of sexual abuse or any other abuse against children to the prosecutor's office. The police have the duty to keep all the orders of the public prosecutor.

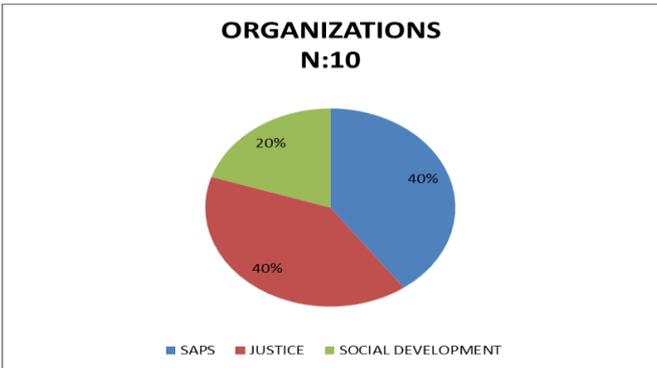
The prosecutor’s role as a gatekeeper of the system suggests that the prosecuting attorney exercises “unfettered discretion” in three areas of decision making: firstly, the circumstances under which criminal charges will be filed; secondly, the level at which an alleged offender will be charged; and, lastly, when to discontinue prosecution. The role of the prosecutor is to seek justice and to help protect victims by identifying cases wherein the evidence warrants prosecution and then to prosecute those cases in the appropriate division of the court system (Plach 2008:12).

The role of the two social workers in Tembisa are to deliver services to sexual abuse cases. Because of the lack of enough social workers, this role is expanded to include diversionary programs and support for convict reintegration into their communities (Roberts *et al.*, 2007:69). which is definitely not the role of the social worker. According to Boezaart (2009:661), one of the roles of the probation officer is to compile sentencing recommendations for the pre-sentence report. The probation officer is responsible for recommending diversions (Nicholas *et al.*, 2010:264).

➤ **Organizations**

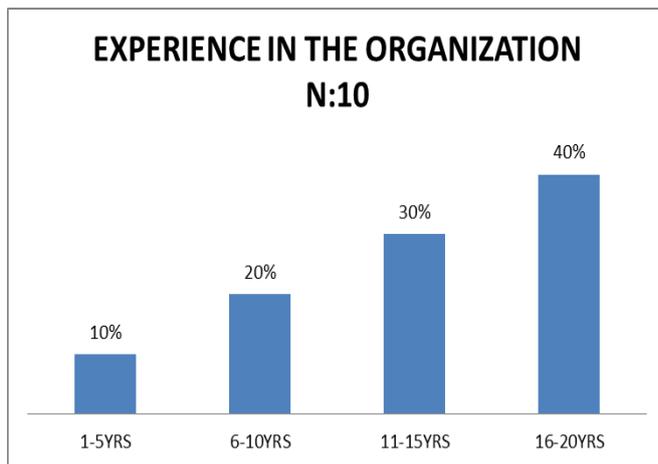
The ten respondents are employees of the following organizations:

**Figure 2: Organization**



The above figure shows that 4 (40%) of the respondents were from the Department of Justice, 4 (40%) from the South African Police Service, while only 2 (20%) were from the Department of Social Development. Their employment experiences were the following:

**Figure 3: Employment experience**



The above figure indicates that 7 (70%) of the respondents had more than eleven years of experience in their organization.

➤ **Experience in the field of sexual abuse**

**Table 1: Experience in sexual abuse cases**

Years of experience	f	%
Less than a year	0	0%
1-5 years	2	20%
6-10 years	6	60%
11-15 years	2	20%
16-20 years	0	0%
More than 21 years	0	0%
<b>N</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

This may have an effect on dealing with sexual abuse cases and, in turn, cause a delay in the finalisation of these cases. Finkel and Giardino (2002: 223) indicated that experience with criminal and juvenile court proceedings is essential. They also highlighted that the decision to file charges and proceed to court often rests on the severity of the abuse and the perceived ability to prove the case.

## 9.2 Data received from the investigating officers

Investigating officers were asked how long they had been working for the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit (FCS unit), and the following answers were received:

### 9.2.1 Working experience in FCS Unit

**Table 2: Working in FCS unit**

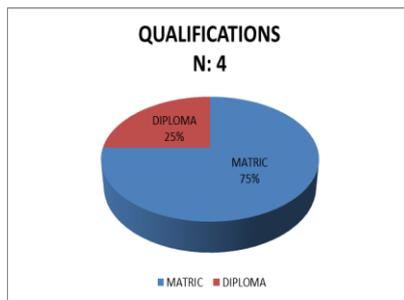
<b>Years</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than a year	0	0%
1-5 years	1	25%
6-10 years	3	75%
More than 10 years	0	0
<b>N</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

The above table indicates that 25% of the investigating officers had been working in the FCS Unit for a period of 1-5 years, while 75% had been with the Unit for a period of 6-10 years. None of them had been in the unit for more than 10 years. From the information above it is quite clear that the investigating officers have less experience in the FCS Unit. Wazir and van Oudenhoven (1998:52) are of the opinion that child sexual abuse cases and the system for dealing with them are particularly challenging and demand additional knowledge, expertise and experience in practice.

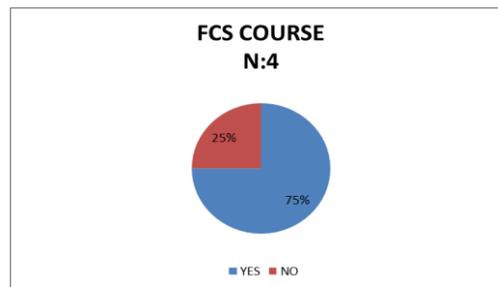
### 9.2.2 Qualifications and attending FCS courses

On a question about their qualifications and whether they attended FCS courses, the 4 respondents gave the following answers:

**Figure 4: Qualification**



**Figure 5: FCS course**



According to the charts above, 3 (75%) of the respondents finished their matric while only 1 (25%) had a post-matric qualification. Three of the respondents had attended the FCS courses, which is very good. However, even the small number of police officers who do not undergo additional training in sexual abuse may jeopardize the finalisation of sexual abuse cases. They may encounter problems, especially when they have to interview young children. As seen by Richter *et al.* (2005:176), interviewing techniques need to be developed and effectively put to use. Many defendants are acquitted because of incorrect interviewing techniques for taking statements by investigating officers or probation officers. Richter *et al.* (2005:176) continues to argue that the interviewing techniques must be developed as a specialised skill, especially when dealing with young children. This will not only assist the prosecution in the presentation of their case, but will also protect the child from further traumatisation and victimisation during the investigation phase of any prosecution.

Some investigating officers are not adequately trained to deal with sexual offences committed against children. In Tembisa a there is a cluster which consists of 16 investigating officers; half of them are not trained in dealing with sexual offences although they work with these cases. The people who initially receive complaints at the client service centres are also not trained to deal with crimes committed against abused children. They sometimes contaminate evidence by leaving out important exhibits at the scene of a crime. This will consequently have a negative impact on the finalisation of such a case.

Upon the question of how the course helped them in the execution of their duties, the respondents gave the following information:

**Respondent 1:** *“It gave me guidance to perform my duties efficiently, especially obtaining a statement from young children.”*

**Respondent 2:** *“It was helpful.”*

**Respondent 3:** *“It helped me on how to obtain a statement from a child.”*

**Respondent 4:** *“It was helpful and I needed more time in obtaining statement from the child.”*

In the answers above all respondents clearly indicated that it was important for them to attend the FCS course and they found it beneficial. It is important for investigating officers to be able to obtain statements from the child victims without re-traumatizing them, as there are many professionals and disciplines who respond to the allegations. This can only be possible when investigating officers get additional training so that the investigation process can result in a clear understanding of the facts of the case. The investigative process should not result in a confusion/ contamination of the facts of the case (Plach, 2008:5).

### 9.2.3 Detective learning programme

To the question of whether they attended the detective learning programme, they all responded that they had attended the programme which is a good thing. According to them there is a need for more members working in the FCS Units in Tembisa because the work is too much for the few members working there.

The following answers were provided in response to the question of how the programme had helped those who attended it in the performance of their duties:

**Respondent 1:** *“I learned how to do my work properly”*

**Respondent 2:** *“It helped me with regard to searching the crime scene and how to deal with evidence.”*

**Respondent 3:** *“I learned how to handle the crime scene evidence.”*

**Respondent 4:** *“I gained so much knowledge to deal with cases than just being an ordinary police officer.”*

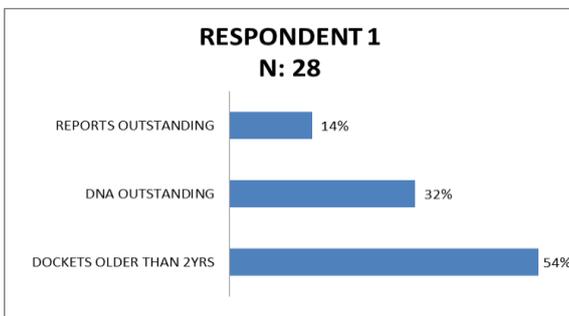
One of the requirements of working in the FCS Unit is to undergo a detective learning programme. One thing that most of the respondents highlighted about going through the DLP was learning how to handle evidence at a crime scene. Hess & Orthmann (2010:127) mention that: “the value of evidence may also be compromised by improper collection, handling or identification”. Therefore the investigator’s evidence processing skills are extremely important.

### 9.2.4 Case load of respondents

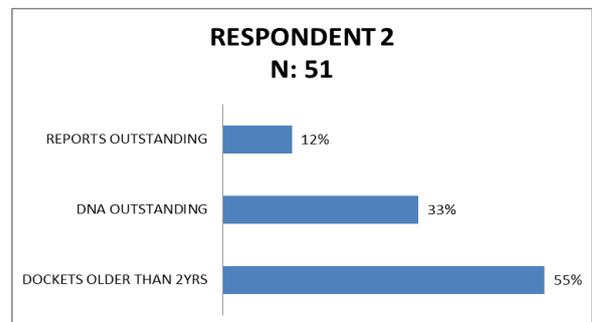
Respondents were asked how many dockets they received per month. Respondent 1 answered ±6, respondent 2 received ±6-7 dockets, respondent 3 received ±6, and respondent 4 received ± 5-6 dockets.

The researcher also asked the respondents how many reports were outstanding, how many dockets were still waiting for DNA results, as well as how many dockets were older than 2 years.

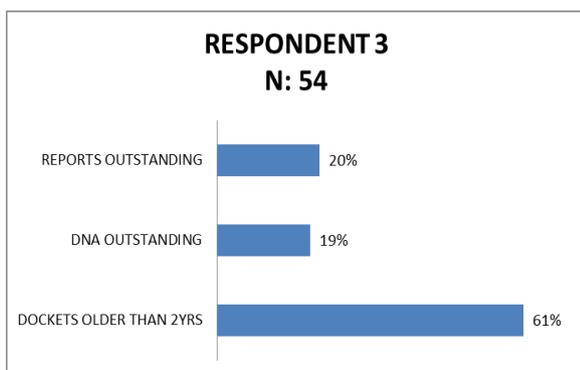
**Figure 6: Results of respondent 1**



**Figure 7: Results of respondent 2**



**Figure 8: Results of respondent 3**



**Figure 9: Results of respondent 4**

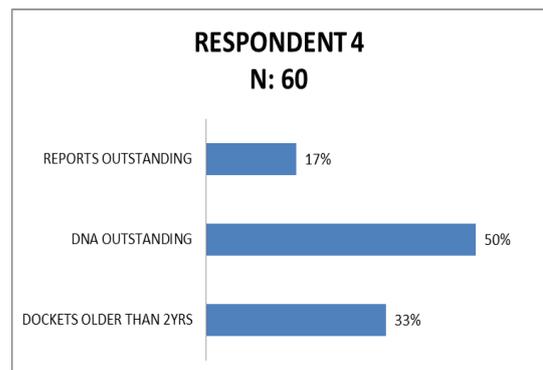


Fig.3.

The above figures indicate that most of the dockets were not yet finalised and were older than 2 years. **Figure 6** indicates that respondent one had a total number of 28 dockets of which 15 (53.57%) were older than 2 years. 9 (32.14%) dockets were still awaiting DNA results and 4 (14.28%) were still waiting for reports from the social workers. **Figure 7** shows that respondent 2 had a total number of 51 dockets on hand: 28 (54.90%) of the dockets were older than 2 years, 17 (33.33%) were waiting for DNA results, while 6 (11.76%) were awaiting reports from the social workers. According to **Figure 8** the respondent had a total number of 54 dockets on hand. 33 (61.11%) were older than 2 years, 10 (18.51%) were awaiting DNA results, and 11 (20.37%) had reports from the social worker pending. Lastly, **Figure 9** indicates that the respondent had a total number of 60 dockets on hand of which 20 (33.33%) were older than 2 years, 30 (50%) had DNA results outstanding, and 10 (16.66%) were waiting for reports by professionals, such as social workers.

In total we can see that 75% of the respondents had a large number of dockets which were older than 2 years because of outstanding DNA results and reports. This further extends the long process of finalising child sexual abuse cases.

In response to the question of the reasons why DNA results as well as reports are delayed, the respondents gave the following reasons:

**Respondent 1:** *“There is a delay at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)”*

**Respondent 2:** *“Not being able to draw blood from the suspect in time causes a delay.”*

**Respondent 3:** *“The forensic science laboratory takes time before they send the DNA results.”*

**Respondent 4:** *“According to the laboratory DNA results comes after 120 days but we wait more than that time before we get the results. We wait for about 6 months or more before we get the results.”*

The answers given above brings one to the conclusion that the delay of DNA results is one of the main reasons why child sexual abuse cases fail to be finalised.

**9.3 Data received from the prosecutors**

On a question of whether the prosecutors were trained in working with sexually abused children, 3 answered “yes” and 1 “no”. They only attended short courses. According to Vieth *et al.* (2006:16) prosecutors must be well trained to interview children. They must be well versed in asking questions that children can understand.

In order to identify the circumstances that affect the finalisation of sexual abuse cases, prosecutors were asked the following questions:

- Approximately how many sexual offence cases are placed on the roll on a monthly basis?
- How many are removed from the roll?
- How many convictions in a month?

**Table 3: Sexual abuse cases**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>On roll</b>	<b>Removed from roll</b>	<b>Convictions per month</b>
Respondent 1	10-15	5	± 2 cases
Respondent 2	15-20	8	±3-5 cases
Respondent 3	12	5	±3-4 cases
Respondent 4	35-40	10-15	±2-3 cases

From the answers provided by the prosecutors it appears that half of the cases placed on the court roll are removed from the roll due to certain reasons. We can also conclude that the number of convictions is less than the number of cases placed on the roll. In addition to this one should bear in mind that these numbers do not reflect cases that never made it on to the roll. According to Finkel & Giardino (2002:223), the decision to file charges and proceed to court often rests on the severity of abuse and the perceived ability to prove the case. According to Hill (2008:42), prosecutors have the power to decide whether to reject or accept a case for prosecution.

Individual prosecutors provided the following reasons for cases being removed from the roll and prolonged processes of investigation:

### **Prosecutor 1**

- Delay of DNA results from the forensic science laboratory.
- Delay of the assessments reports from the social worker's office.
- Doctors giving incomplete reports and their reluctance to come and testify in court.

### **Prosecutor 2**

- Delay of the DNA results from the forensic science laboratory.
- Delay of the assessments reports from the social worker's office.
- Incomplete statements in the dockets.
- Not enough evidence to prosecute.
- TV facilities not working properly or not available.
- Congested court rolls and not enough prosecutors.

### **Prosecutor 3**

- Delay of the DNA results from the forensic science laboratory.
- Delay of the assessments reports from the social worker's office.
- Incomplete statements in the dockets.
- Not enough evidence to prosecute

### **Prosecutor 4**

- Delay of the DNA results from the forensic science laboratory.
- Delay of the assessments reports from the social worker's office.
- Incomplete statements in the dockets.
- Not enough evidence to prosecute

From the answers provided above it is quite clear that outstanding DNA results, delay of assessment reports, and lack of sufficient evidence are dominating factors in prolonging the process of child sexual abuse investigations. The role of the prosecutor is to seek justice and to help protect victims by identifying cases for which the evidence warrants prosecution and then to prosecute those cases in the appropriate division of the court system (Plach, 2008:12).

Some of the prosecutors highlighted that incomplete statements in the dockets cause a delay in the process of investigation, and some of the cases end up being struck off the court roll. Getting them back onto the roll consumes even more time. Richter *et al.* (2009:175) is also of the opinion that many defendants are acquitted because police officers and forensic social workers follow incorrect and inadequate techniques for taking statements. According to Browne (2009:520), when an investigation results in the alleged perpetrator being charged with an offence, the police have the responsibility to report the investigation to the crown prosecution authority (CPS) who decides on whether court proceedings should follow.

The prosecutor's office often has its own investigators. Most tend to be retired law enforcement officials. Their duties include witness and evidence management. If the Prosecutors have to go back and conduct or reconduct investigative duties that should have been handled before an arrest was made, this is an indication of a weak or incomplete investigation (Avino & Turvey, 2011:471).

## **9.4 Data received from social workers**

### **9.4.1 Experience and qualifications of social workers**

The two social workers who work in Tembisa were asked what experiences they have had as social workers in the field of child sexual abuse.

**Figure 10: Experience**



The chart above indicates that 1 (50%) of the social workers has been practicing for a period of 1-5 years while the other one (50%) has been practicing for a period of 6-10 years. Both social workers indicated that they had no other qualifications than a 4-year degree in social work with no specialised training in the field of sexual abuse of the child. Their social work qualification did not enable them to deal with sexual abuse cases.

On the question of whether, as social workers, they had any other qualifications enabling them to deal with child sexual abuse, the following responses were received:

➤ **Respondent 1:**

According to this respondent, she attended the following courses that enabled her to deal with sexually abused children:

- A course on report writing for court purposes.
- A workshop presented by the University of Cape Town on how to assess children who are sexually abused and in conflict with the law.

Other courses were in the field of probation officer.

- A course on probation as a whole as well as on expert witnessing.
- I also attended a five-day short course on forensic assessment of sexually abused children.

According to Kuehnle (1996:27), it is important that social workers dealing with a sexually abused child should have specialised knowledge in this field.

➤ **Respondent 2:**

According to respondent 2 she attended the following courses:

- “A workshop on the assessment of juveniles helped me to deal with sexually abused children and how to assess children who are in conflict with the law.”
- “I was also helped by the training on the Child Justice Act which helped me to deal with preliminary enquiries.”

These two social workers attended more courses on helping juveniles in conflict with the law. However, they lack specialised knowledge on the sexual abuse of children. In a study conducted by Cussons (2011:33) the majority of social workers said that the basic training as social worker was not enough to deal with sexual abuse investigations and recommended specialised training in this field. The respondents thought that social workers did not have enough knowledge and practical experience to conduct sexual abuse investigations. Although short courses helped the social workers to deal with sexual abuse cases to some extent, Green *et al.* (2005:152) acknowledge that not all skills are transferable and specialised training is better than in-house or worse, on-the-job training. Group members noted that the latter left workers vulnerable, especially in a forensic setting. The researcher is of the opinion that a lack of specialised training of social workers in the field of sexual abuse of the child is one of the circumstances that affect the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa.

#### 9.4.2 **Standby duties**

Both respondents indicated that they do not work standby duties. They are only available in Tembisa from 08:00 to 12:30. It is important that the social workers be available at all times so they can place children who are sexually abused in places of safety. Dominelli (2007:202) states that social workers should be available after hours to assess children, assist in locating their parents and families, and make recommendations to the prosecutor and magistrate on the placement of the child.

### 9.4.3 Case load of social workers

On the question of how many cases they deal with, respondent 1 answered 10 and respondent 2 answered ±13 cases. On another question of how long it takes to finalise a case, the following answers were received:

➤ **Respondent 1:**

“It depends on the nature of the case. Some cases are more difficult to investigate. It also depends on the trial date.”

➤ **Respondent 2:**

“It can take about 3 to 6 weeks depending on the type of report and the trial date.”

The respondents mentioned that they deal with sexual abuse of children but also with children who are in conflict with the law and the placements of minors. Finkel and Giardino (2002:222) outline seven roles for the child protection service worker. The roles are as follows:

- Gathering data for reports
- Initial assessments
- Liaise with other disciplines in investigations
- Development of individualised service plan
- Delivery and coordination of services being provided
- Provision of updates to the court, if involved
- Community activities around awareness and prevention

Because of the shortage of social workers, most social workers in South Africa have many roles to fulfil that they have not necessarily been trained for, like the social workers in Tembisa. Therefore, there is an urgent need for qualified social workers in the field of sexual abuse who can assist the child with the therapy but also with the forensic interview as a forensic social worker. According to the South African Council for Service Professions (2008:1), forensic social work is a “*specialised field of social work*

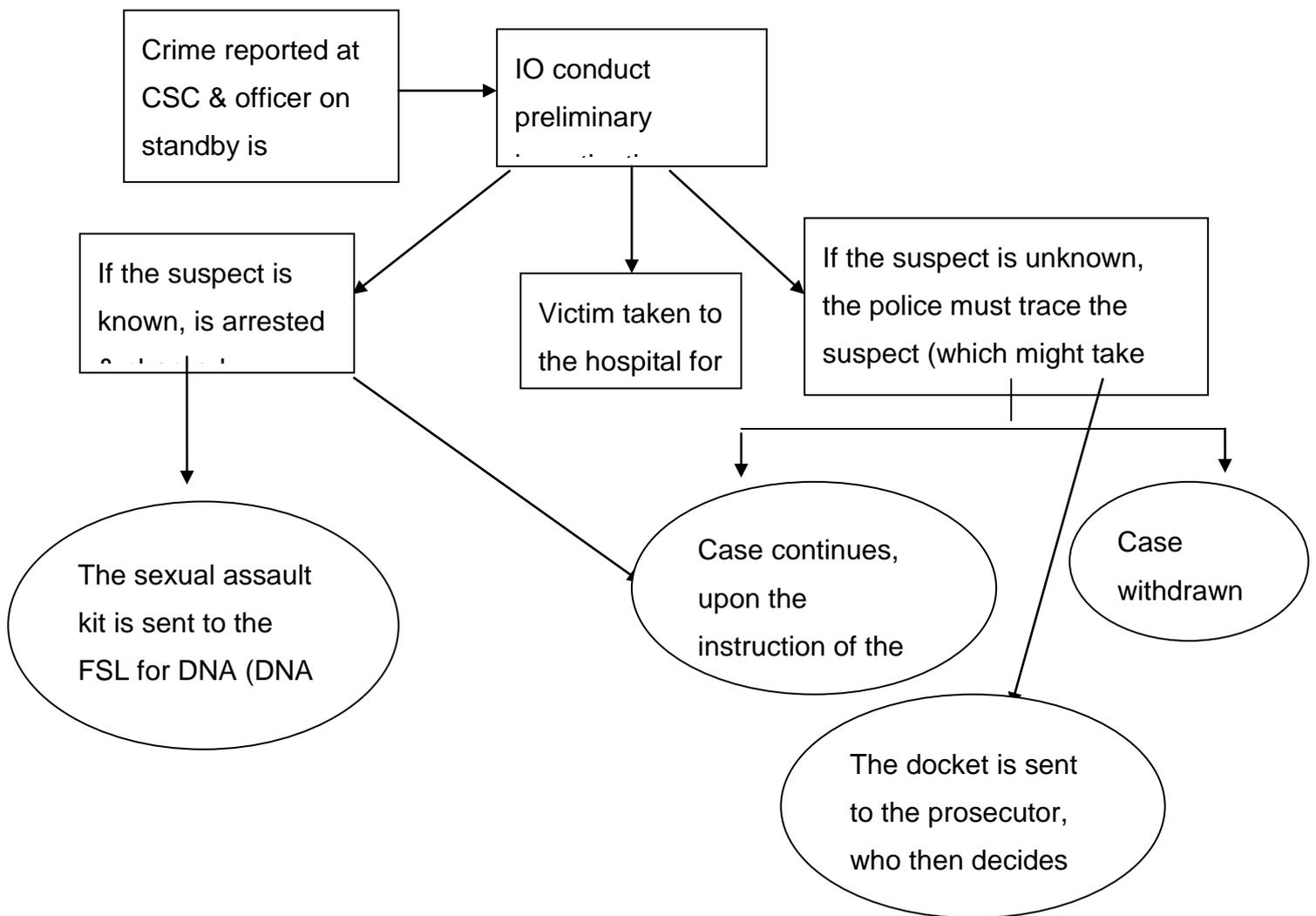
*that focuses on the interface between society's legal and human systems and is characterized by the social worker's primary function of providing expert testimonies in courts of law with the primary client being the judiciary system".*

Finkel & Giardino (2002:222) maintain that, in view of the abovementioned roles, knowledge of regulatory and legal issues together with collaboration skills is necessary.

#### **9.4.4 Circumstances that influence the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases**

In discussing the questions above the respondents gave more or less the same answers. They are only two social workers working for the Tembisa cluster and they have a high case load. Another reason is that the procedure of handling child sexual abuse cases itself is so long that some victims end up withdrawing the case. The fact that the suspect may be released on bail also prolongs the process as the investigating officer must start again in tracing the whereabouts of the suspect. The procedure of handling sexual abuse cases can be seen in figure 13 below.

**Figure 11: The procedure of handling sexual abuse cases**



(Ntlatleng, 2011)

Social workers in the North-West Province, but also in South Africa as a whole, struggle with heavy case loads (Delport *et al.*, 2008:307). According to the previous Minister of Social Development, Zola Skweyiya, social work faces a general shortage of skilled social workers (Anon, 2007:8). According to Roux *et al.* (2010:51), one must bear in mind that, although the procedure of handling sexual abuse cases is very long and not many social workers are trained to handle these cases, social workers have a responsibility towards their clients and the community to deliver their best service to the community as well as the sexually abused child in the shortest time possible.

## 10. OBSERVATION OF THE RESEARCHER

During the interviews with prosecutors it was obvious that outstanding DNA results, delay of assessment reports, and lack of enough evidence are all dominating factors in

prolonging the process of child sexual abuse investigations. These circumstances cause a delay in the process of investigation and some of the cases end up being struck off the court roll. Trying to get them back on the roll is a very time-consuming effort. Prosecutors are also of the opinion that many defendants are acquitted because of incorrect and inadequate techniques for taking statements by police or forensic social workers.

The fact that police stations and social work service points are understaffed prolongs the process and can lead to burn-out among the role players in sexual abuse cases. In the case of investigating officers, in Tembisa there are only 15 investigating officers who have to take care of 9 stations. This, in turn, creates a high case load for them as most of them reported that they receive about  $\pm 6$  cases in a month. If these cases fail to be finalised they add up to the backlog. In the case of social workers this situation is even worse, as there are only 2 who have to cover all cases of sexual abuse in Tembisa.

## **11. CONCLUSIONS**

The researcher came to the conclusion that the following circumstances influence the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases:

- The waiting period for DNA results from the laboratory and lack of enough evidence makes the finalisation of sexual abuse cases a very lengthy process. Sometimes parents and caregivers contaminate evidence and as a result this makes it difficult for investigating officers to collect evidence. Without evidence the prosecutor will not be able to prosecute the case and the victim suffers as a result. Some of the investigating officers mentioned that a delay in drawing blood from the suspect for DNA also prolongs the process. If the suspect is unknown, the process can only continue once he has been arrested.
- The delay at the forensic science laboratory is sometimes due to the sensitive nature of the techniques used to extract and analyse DNA. Stark (2011:76) is of the opinion that "*Forensic practitioners should take all possible steps to ensure that their own cellular material does not contaminate the samples they obtain*".
- The fact that the role players are understaffed makes the process long. The 15 investigating officers in Tembisa are responsible for 9 stations. In the case of social

workers this situation is even worse as there are only 2 social workers for all cases of sexual abuse in Tembisa. Prosecutors cannot focus exclusively on sexual abuse cases, as there are no courts that are specifically reserved for this. This creates a lot of work for prosecutors and, in turn, affects the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases.

- Inadequate training of the role players has an effect on the conclusion of these cases. The fact that investigating officers attended a detective learning course and an FCS course does not guarantee that they will be able to handle child sexual abuse cases in an adequate manner. They still need more and continuous training in dealing with cases of child sexual abuse. The same applies to prosecutors and probation officers. According to the American Prosecutors' Research Institute (2004), *"the keys to the successful handling of an investigation of this magnitude include the effective management of all components of the investigation, the establishment of protocols to guide the investigation and ensure information sharing in a timely manner and being prepared for anticipating the unexpected"*.
- The lack of courts that focus only on sexual offences in Tembisa affects the finalisation of child sexual abuse. Prosecutors find themselves with a backlog of cases not only limited to child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse is a very sensitive issue which requires complete attention and care.
- It is quite clear that the whole criminal justice system plays a role in the finalisation of sexual abuse cases. Every individual participant in the child protection process in every profession and agency necessarily sees things from his or her own particular point of view; they also have their own particular axes to grind. It is important to bear in mind that no one participant possesses the pure and unadulterated truth (Beckett, 2007: 29).

## **12. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is therefore recommended that:

- Delays at the forensic science laboratory should receive attention.
- The relevant departments should employ more staff and train them in dealing with child sexual abuse offences.

- Sexual offences courts should be implemented in Tembisa so that they can focus only on sexual offences.
- The South African Police should train more members who can deal with sexual abuse cases especially where children are the victims.
- Awareness campaigns should be implemented so that the community can understand the procedure for handling child sexual abuse cases and know how to handle evidence in the case of a child having been sexually abused.
- Children at schools also need to be educated about child sexual abuse so that they also know how not to contaminate evidence of sexual abuse. The procedure for handling a case of sexual abuse should be explained to them.
- Social workers and psychologists trained in the field of child sexual abuse must be appointed at every school in order to educate learners on all issues of child sexual abuse.
- An assessment unit or multi-professional team approach would be beneficial. A typical multi-professional unit would include forensic social workers, a play therapist, medical doctor, the FCS Unit clinical psychologist, and legal representatives such as the prosecutor, investigating officer, and social worker (Cussons, 2011:39).
- Continuous training for professionals dealing with sexual abuse cases is also necessary. Some of the courses that respondents underwent (such as DLP and FCS courses) are only presented once and last about 6 weeks. It is therefore important that role players develop themselves professionally in order to improve their expertise.
- Investigating officers working at the FCS Unit are not the only ones interviewing victims of child sexual abuse. Sometimes the initial statement is obtained by police officers working at the client service centre (CSC). If a statement is not taken in the proper way it can ruin the whole investigative process. It is therefore highly recommended that the CSC personnel be trained on how to interview a child victim and how to obtain a statement from the child. Extensive training is needed here as they are the first people to interview the child and open a case docket before they can call the FCS investigating officer.

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## ADDENDUM

### **Title of research: Circumstances that influence the finalisation of child sexual abuse cases in Tembisa**

- ❖ Answer only questions that are relevant to your field with honesty.
- ❖ Anonymity will be preserved as you can see it is not necessary to write your name.
- ❖ This study will assist the researcher in exploring the circumstances that affect the finalisation regarding sexual abuse cases and strategies that can be implemented to conquer those circumstances.

#### **SECTION A: IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

1. What is your occupation \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which organisation are you working for

South African Police Service	
Dept of Justice	
Dept of Health	
Dept of Social development	
Private Practice	

3. For how long have you been working for the above organisation?

Less than a year	
1-5 years	
6-10 Years	
11-15 Years	
16-20 Years	
21 years and more	

4. For how long have you been working with sexual offences?

Less than a year	
1-5 years	
6-10 Years	
11-15 Years	
16-20 Years	
21 years and more	

**SECTION B: CIRCUMSTANCES THAT AFFECT THE FINALIZATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE CASES.**

❖ *This section should only be completed by investigating officers.*

1. For how long have you been working for the family violence, child protection and sexual offences unit?

Less than a year	
1-5 years	
6-10 Years	

2. What are your Qualifications? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Did you attend the F.C.S. course?

Yes	
No	

4. How did you find the course in the execution of your duties?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Did you attend the Detective Learning Programme?

Yes	
No	

6. How did the programme help you in the performance of your duties?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Approximately, how many dockets do you receive per month? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What are the reasons for not finalizing the above dockets?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. How many dockets are still waiting for DNA results? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What are the reasons for not receiving the DNA results?  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. How many dockets are still waiting for a report from the professional team? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What are the reasons for not receiving these reports?  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Did you have any training in working with children who are sexually abuse?

Yes		No	
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14. If "yes", what did this training entails?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you think you need more training that will assist you in investigating sexual abuse cases?

Yes	
No	

16. Motivate your answer

17. Do you think there is a need for more FCS members?

Yes	
No	

18. Motivate your answer

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19. In your opinion, what are some of the circumstances that affect the finalization of sexual abuse cases? \_\_\_\_\_

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20. Observation of the researcher

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Thank you for your cooperation.

Me Ntlatleng

MSW student in Forensic Practice at the North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus

**SECTION C: this section must only be completed by prosecutors.**

1. How long have you been prosecuting for sexual offences

Less than a year	
1-5 years	
6-10 Years	
11-15 Years	
16-20 Years	
21 years and more	

2. Please tick some of the following reasons that made the finalization of sexual abuse cases to be long.

DNA results from FSL outstanding	
Assessment reports outstanding	
Incomplete statements in the dockets	
Not enough evidence to prosecute.	
Lack of interpreters	
Any other reasons please list them below	

3. Approximately how many sexual offence cases are placed on roll on monthly bases?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How many are removed from the roll? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the reasons why they are removed?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How many convictions in a month? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What are some of the reasons for removing cases from the roll?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you have any training in working with sexual abuse children?

9. Observation of the researcher

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I want to thank you for your cooperation.

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Me MJ Ntlatleng  
MSW student in Forensic Practice at the North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus

**SECTION D: This section must only be completed by social workers.**

1. How long have you been practicing as a Social worker?

Less than a year
1-5 years
6-10 Years
11-15 Years
16-20 Years
21 years and more

2. Please tick some of the following reasons that made the finalization of sexual abuse cases to be long.

DNA results from FSL outstanding	
Assessment reports outstanding	
Incomplete statements in the dockets	
Not enough evidence to prosecute.	
Lack of interpreters	
Any other reasons please list them below	

3. Approximately how many sexual offence cases are placed on roll on monthly bases? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Apart from your B.A degree in Social work, what other qualification (s) do you have regarding child sexual abuse?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Did your qualification as a social worker during your BA studies enable you to handle child sexual abuse cases?

Yes		No	
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6. If Not, Why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Did your other qualification(s) enable you to handle child sexual abuse cases?

Yes		No	
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8. Motivate your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you work standby duties?

Yes	
No	

10. What is your case load? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What kind of cases do you deal with?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. How long does it take you to finalize your cases?

\_\_\_\_\_

13. What kinds of assessments do you conduct?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Discuss the circumstances in your field of practice that influence the finalization of the child sexual abuse cases.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. Observation of the researcher.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your cooperation.

Me Ntlatleng

MSW in Forensic Practice-student, at the North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus