



## **A FALSE ALLEGATION OF A SEXUAL NATURE**

A false allegation of a sexual nature is a lie. More often than not, that lie will grow following the initial disclosure, for many reasons. For survival and defence purposes, it is vital that anyone being falsely accused understand the mechanics of why the story becomes expanded, simply because they will probably find themselves accused of one thing one minute and something else the next. This also includes why there is one accuser initially and then several others make allegations or lies as time passes.

First, think carefully about what usually happens when a person tells a lie about anything.

Obviously, they want to be believed, so they carefully watch the person they are telling the lie to in order to see if what they are saying is being accepted or not. Don't think that a person, even of tender years, is incapable of easily reading visual reactions.

If a young girl told her mother or father that she had seen a Tooth Fairy, she would probably continue her story or not depending on the reaction she got. If her mother or father smiled and said, "Did you?" that would signal to the girl that they are being believed.

Now, suppose the same parent said, "Really, and what was she doing, or where was she?" the girl may begin supplying details, even to the point of saying they actually talked to the Tooth Fairy. The fact is, although innocent, the story is still a fabrication, but positive support of that fabrication usually leads to additional fabrication.

No one has to have a positive reinforcement to expand on fabrication.

Expansion can also result from negative reinforcement. If, in the same story above, the girl told her father that she saw the Tooth Fairy and his reaction was, "Oh come on, you know she does not exist", the girl's response could easily become, "Yes, she does, she took me for a ride in the sky and I talked to her". Again, a fabrication, but again an example that the girl is capable of expanding a fabrication whether there is positive reinforcement or not.

Unfortunately, most people believe that a person will lie about the Tooth Fairy or whether they did their homework or not or whether they spent more on something than they actually say, but would never lie about something as serious as being touched or making up a sexual allegation.

What most people fail to realise is the fact that most people have no real concept about how serious a false allegation of a sexual offence is when they make it or what the consequences may be. They do not look at this type of allegation as they would any other because of the stigma of the allegation being made.

In order to honestly understand the mechanics behind the growth of sexual offence allegations, one needs to examine what normally transpires from the initial disclosure, forward and, once again, speaking only about false allegations, not real abuse.

There are many reasons for the initial disclosure. A person could be mad at someone, they could be prompted for their story or they could actually be coached by someone else or they could have a problem with a family member, friend, colleague or the allegation could be centred around a property issue or financial dispute and even accusing someone who was in their life but is now absent and the actual event has / is taking place in present time but just want to blame the absent party because they are afraid of the assailant.



It is vital to look very carefully at what was taking place when the initial allegation was made and to whom was it made.

Many people, even some well meaning counsellors, surmise that if a person is sad and withdrawn and is not telling why, something bad must have happened to them.

Many people, who simply may not wish to talk, give an immediate and positive response, without even realising what they are saying, but to someone else, they immediately become a victim and need to be “pampered”. That pampering could consist of the person crying, cuddling and protecting them, but to the accuser, this attention may be new and fantastic and “I’m the centre of attention”. They are getting attention they never got before and normally, a typical false allegation accuser would thrive on attention and that attention resulted from nothing more than a simple “yes” response; no details and no facts, just a yes.

Then again, the initial “disclosure” may have amounted to a simple yes response to the question, “did the accused touch you somewhere where he / she was not supposed to?”

Following the “yes,” the accuser was immediately given attention that they may never have previously received and in many cases, the accuser loves it. The accuser is not thinking, “I said he / she touched me sexually and he /she could go to prison for doing it.” Their main thoughts are on the newly acquired attention they are receiving.

In some cases, after the accuser has said “yes”, the protégé may push for details or may take the accuser to a counsellor, social worker or a police station, but whoever protégé takes the accuser to, depends on the fact that the protégé will do the initial talking.

If the protégé does take the accuser to the police, the protégé will tell the police officer what the protégé was told and normally, at that point, in everyone's mind, including the police officer, the accuser was touched and indeed, is a victim. Once the police officer completes his interview with the protégé, he / she may interview the accuser.

At this point, carefully consider the psychology of what is taking, or about to take place.

Most people are told the “police” are good, are there to protect them, but never lie to a policeman. Here is the accuser, talking to a police officer, well meaning or not, who already has a preconceived opinion and the accuser has been brought up not to lie to the police. At that point, the accuser may reason, “Well, I have to tell him what I told my protégé”, so they repeat the allegation. The problem is, usually the police officer will want more details than the accusers protégé did, so the accuser begins to provide them. Why? Because the police officer is all but in tears, something the accuser may easily see as positive support and something that gives a clear message to the accuser that they can say just about whatever they want.

Keep in mind, that in many circumstances, it is impossible for an accuser to supply details to events that never took place, so normally if proper interviewing techniques were used, the allegation would be shown to be false, but that is rarely the case.

The police officer may begin by educating the accuser with leading and suggestive questioning or by the use of anatomically correct drawings, where an accuser is asked to identify body parts and “show” where they have been allegedly touched.

The police officer/s may begin by telling the accuser, “I am here to protect you and nothing bad is ever going to happen to you again”.



Once the interview is complete, it is not unusual for the police officer to give a “hug” to the “accuser” and assure them that everything is going to be okay. This can positively reinforced the special attention, attention that the accuser does not want to lose. They feel needed, important and very special...

Several days or even months later, a second interview is arranged between the accuser and maybe another police officer. Again, this new police officer would have been advised of all prior disclosures and again, this new police officer may well have already formed an opinion that the accused may well have committed an offence.

Here is the accuser during the second interview and, to the accuser, maybe they are there because they have not told enough, so by the time that interview ends, the accuser may be saying "he put his hand inside my underwear and put his finger in my vagina," so basically, now we have our third story.

Normally, when the police officer has finished, they may refer the accused to a hospital or police doctor for a physical examination, or even a facility who, specialises in sexual offences but this cannot be undertaken in historical cases.

Amazingly, some of these interviews are usually not recorded and even when they are, the accuser has already told their story so many times that any prior mistakes they may have made telling it earlier would have, for the most part, been corrected.

It is very rare that any police officer, social worker and in many cases, counsellors and psychologists, have had any formal training in proper interview techniques and, in most cases, these individuals immediately believe the accuser and are only interested in evidence to validate the allegation.

Usually, the more times the accuser tells the story, the more it becomes expanded and regardless of how ridiculous any of the details are, that person was sexually assaulted simply because the accuser said it happened.

An allegation, which began as a simple yes with prompting, fuelled by newly acquired attention and expanded because the accuser could not admit they lied, suddenly became a major criminal case against the accused that had done absolutely nothing, yet found him branded as a sexual offender.

The unfortunate thing is that the “professionals” who deal with these accusers are not looking for the truth, just information to validate the allegation.

The key to breaking down a false allegation, as is discussed in other areas of this website, is to carefully analyse every statement from the accuser, protégé, witness have made, and compare each individual allegation against the other. For the most part, a description of real sexual assault remains constant where a false allegation tends to change like the wind. It is also beneficial to carefully examine exactly what was taking place in the accuser’s life when the initial disclosure was made.

Most false allegations of sexual assault would surface quickly if these “professionals” interviewed these accusers properly and did not simply accept a story, at face value, as being the complete truth. Yes, sexual assault does happen, but so do false allegations of sexual assault and until we, as a society, learn to properly deal with these issues and distinguish fact from fantasy, innocent people, falsely accused, will continue to have their lives and families



destroyed, spend years in prison and be labelled for the rest of their lives as being a sex offender, when in reality, they have done absolutely nothing.

To anyone falsely accused, expose the lie or risk conviction.