

▶ Corroboration

of Physical Child Abuse

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect. The text is positioned on the left side of the slide, set against a plain white background.

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Corroborating Evidence

How to build a case strong enough to survive trial

Complicating Factors

- ▶ Age of the child
- ▶ Severity of the abuse
- ▶ Pre-existing conditions
- ▶ Quality of witnesses
- ▶ Level of documentation
- ▶ Resources available
- ▶ Cooperation

Three different types:
Testimonial, Physical, Digital

Testimonial Corroboration: Who do you interview?

- ▶ The obvious
 - ▶ Caregivers
 - ▶ Victims
 - ▶ Siblings
 - ▶ Medical personnel
 - ▶ Doctors/nurses
 - ▶ social workers/chaplains
 - ▶ DCS workers
 - ▶ Peripheral caregivers
 - ▶ Extended family
 - ▶ Neighbors
 - ▶ Babysitters

Testimonial Corroboration: Who do you interview?

- ▶ Less obvious
 - ▶ Teachers
 - ▶ School Resource Officers
 - ▶ Counselors
 - ▶ School Nurses
 - ▶ Librarians
 - ▶ Coaches
 - ▶ Tutors

Testimonial Corroboration: Who do you interview?

- ▶ Long Shots
 - ▶ Forensic pediatrician review
 - ▶ Playground moms
 - ▶ Older siblings friends
 - ▶ Youth pastor/clergy
 - ▶ Parents of victim's best friend
 - ▶ Pen pals
 - ▶ Mailman

FOLLOW UP ON THE INFORMATION!

- ▶ Corroborate your corroboration
- ▶ Jurors want to see thoroughness
- ▶ Witness testimony is fallible, shore it up
 - ▶ What documentation supports the statements?
 - ▶ What digital evidence confirms the statements?

Corroborating Physical Evidence:

What documents, instruments, or items support your case?

- ▶ The obvious
 - ▶ Items
 - ▶ Unusual or unique items described by the victim/witnesses
 - ▶ Instruments matching patterned injuries
 - ▶ Favorite belongings present during the abuse
 - ▶ Biological evidence
 - ▶ Drawings or sketches
 - ▶ Concealment of items because of embarrassment

Corroborating Physical Evidence:

What documents, instruments, or items support your case?

▶ The obvious

▶ Documents

- ▶ DCS records, including prior incidents
- ▶ Medical records, past and current
 - ▶ Urgent care visits
 - ▶ Well check visits
- ▶ Medical imaging, continued care
 - ▶ CT scans, MRIs, skeletal surveys - initial and follow-up
- ▶ School/Daycare records
- ▶ Journals/Diaries/Blogs/Vlogs
- ▶ Autopsy reports

Corroborating Physical Evidence:

What documents, instruments, or items support your case?

- ▶ Less obvious
 - ▶ Items
 - ▶ Hand/fingerprints of the victim
 - ▶ Luminol for biological substances in odd places
 - ▶ Dry vs. Wet bathtub or towel
 - ▶ Lack of blood/vomit
 - ▶ Lack of toys, beds, children's items
 - ▶ Disparity of gifts between children
 - ▶ Reversed locks/signs of confinement
 - ▶ Splurge purchases (e.g. new T.V., car, etc.)

Corroborating Physical Evidence:

What documents, instruments, or items support your case?

- ▶ Less obvious
 - ▶ Documents
 - ▶ Secret Medical Records
 - ▶ Outpatient Records
 - ▶ DCS Records of other children
 - ▶ Prior adult DV police contacts
 - ▶ Orders of protection affidavits
 - ▶ Family Court records
 - ▶ Daycare accident reports
 - ▶ Involuntary commitment records
 - ▶ Incompetency court records

Corroborating Physical Evidence:

What documents, instruments, or items support your case?

- ▶ Long Shot

- ▶ Items

- ▶ Body parts (e.g. skin, teeth, scabs)
 - ▶ Semen
 - ▶ Torture items
 - ▶ Bondage instruments
 - ▶ Homemade surgical kits
 - ▶ Written confessions
 - ▶ Jail calls

Corroborating Physical Evidence:

What documents, instruments, or items support your case?

- ▶ Long Shot

- ▶ Documents

- ▶ Counseling/Therapy records
 - ▶ Juvenile court records
 - ▶ Receipts (e.g. trips/memorable occasions)
 - ▶ Financial records
 - ▶ Civil lawsuits

Corroborating Digital Evidence:

What devices or online formats contain pivotal evidence?

- ▶ The obvious
 - ▶ 911 Calls
 - ▶ Body camera footage
 - ▶ Surveillance footage
 - ▶ Social Media
 - ▶ Phone dumps/Cellebrite
 - ▶ Call logs
 - ▶ Texts
 - ▶ Pictures
 - ▶ Video
 - ▶ Email

Corroborating Digital Evidence:

What devices or online formats contain pivotal evidence?

- ▶ Less obvious
 - ▶ Messaging Apps
 - ▶ Kik, WhatsApp, Snapchat
 - ▶ Look for friends they message
 - ▶ Gaming Apps
 - ▶ Words with friends
 - ▶ Word processing Apps
 - ▶ Voice memos
 - ▶ Messaging boards
 - ▶ Other devices
 - ▶ Laptops, iPads, tablets

Corroborating Digital Evidence:

What devices or online formats contain pivotal evidence?

- ▶ Long shot
 - ▶ Gaming forums/networks
 - ▶ Xbox live
 - ▶ PlayStation Network
 - ▶ Steam
 - ▶ Car data
 - ▶ GPS
 - ▶ On board cameras
 - ▶ Airbag/braking data
 - ▶ Seatbelt sensors

What is your case, and what do you need to prove it?

- ▶ These cases matter; so, do them justice.
- ▶ Know the weaknesses of your case.
- ▶ Collect the evidence to defeat those weaknesses.
- ▶ Anticipate defenses.
- ▶ If you can avoid it, don't rely solely on witness accounts.
- ▶ Don't be afraid to ask for search warrants.
- ▶ Stay up to date on current trends, or be left behind.
- ▶ Lack of evidence is just as important as the presence of it.
- ▶ Think creatively.
- ▶ Overcollection is always better than under collection.

Questions?



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