

*The experience of Art Therapists from the Arab society,
when facing mandatory reporting on child abuse*

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Abstract

The Arab art therapist, who is also working in the Arab society, has to cope with many topics. Some of them include: The cultural gap between the state's laws, and the conservative patriarchal Arab society; the results of reporting on the client, his family and the community; the attitude of colleagues and supervisors in the workplace; and emotions and feelings that evoke from coping with mandatory reporting.

The purpose of the study was to observe the difficulties faced by art therapists in the midst of sensitive therapy, when there is an indication of reasonable suspicion that the client has experienced abuse.

Twelve female art therapist from the Arab society were interviewed, for this the study.

Data collection was conducted in the form of half structured in-depth narrative interview.

Six central themes were derived from the interviews: Professional aspects of the practice; reactions, feelings, and emotions following the process of reporting; doubts concerning reporting; the client and the therapeutic process and the therapeutic relationship; professional difficulties vs. personal values; and, the society and community where the participant lives.

The present study on mandatory reporting, is a pioneer study in the field of art therapy among Arab society, aiming to sharpen the issue of reporting in a segregated society including its implications, along with living and functioning in the same society. In addition the intention of this study that, its findings, will be in use for further studies concerning mandatory reporting among professionals. Professionals from the field of art therapy in general, and mainly in the Arab society.

Title:

The Neighborhood – Child Maltreatment Link: Findings from the Cleveland Neighborhood Ecologies and Child Maltreatment Mixed Methods Study

Key words:

Neighborhood; Community; Child Maltreatment

Abstract: Child maltreatment prevention and intervention activities have been oriented primarily towards individuals and families. Contextual factors outside the household setting have received far less attention. However, the neighborhood is a key environment for children and families that has been associated with maltreatment and that can serve as a focus for prevention and intervention efforts. The Cleveland, Ohio “Neighborhood Ecologies and Child Maltreatment – A Mixed-Methods Study” was undertaken to investigate the importance of neighborhood context in shaping child maltreatment. Specifically, based on data reaching back up to 20 years in some instances, the study has investigated the role that differences in three neighborhood-level characteristics have played in creating the diverse “trajectories” of child maltreatment rates exhibited in Cleveland neighborhoods: (1) differences in neighborhood conditions as reflected by structural factors, social processes and dis-amenities (undesirable conditions); (2) differences in the organization and provision of social services; and (3) differences in the definition, reporting, and substantiation of maltreatment. Study findings related to these three pathways and their practice/policy implications will be presented. Ethical and logistical “lessons learned” in the implementation of the study will also be discussed.

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מכון שינוי

המרכז הישראלי לתהליכי שינוי במשפחה בפרט ובארגון
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Religious, Communal and Clinical Obstacles to Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

Statutes for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse are universally accepted in all Western legal systems and are taught as an integral element of the ethics curriculum that is part of the professional training for all mental health and education professionals. Nonetheless, a considerable gap exists between what these professionals know to be incumbent upon them and how they make decisions in real life situations. This tension is felt in the daily practice of mental health professionals and has dramatically come to the fore in past years within the context of child abuse scandals both in the Catholic Church as well as within the Orthodox Jewish community. This presentation will explore some of the psychological and ideological barriers that exist for mental health and educational professionals in applying mandatory reporting statutes. Particular emphasis will be placed on those professionals who function within faith-based communities and the special conflicts that may exist between their professional obligations, on the one hand, and their religious and communal loyalties on the other.



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מסמך זה מכיל חומר חסוי ורגיש - אין להעבירו למי שלא מוסמך לעיין בו

Key words: Mandatory reporting, child abuse, religious, mental health professional

בכבוד רב,



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