

The Multi-Disciplinary Interview Team (MDIT)

The MDIT was developed primarily for the benefit of children needing to undergo a forensic interview (audio and videotaped interview that can be used as evidence). However, a MDIT may also be used when interviewing developmentally delayed adults, elderly or dependent adults, and other witnesses as deemed appropriate.

The MDIT is utilized when the “initiating party”, usually a police officer or social worker, makes a determination that a person may be the victim of abuse.

The purpose of the MDIT is as follows:

- ▶ To provide a safe and neutral environment for interviewing victims of suspected abuse.
- ▶ To reduce the number of interviews of victims by law enforcement, the Human Services Agency, and the District Attorney’s Office.
- ▶ To reduce the trauma experienced by children during the interview process.
- ▶ To improve the quality and quantity of data obtained during the investigation.
- ▶ To improve the quality and objectivity of interviewing techniques through ongoing training of interview specialists.
- ▶ To improve the fact-finding process and ascertain the truth in alleged child abuse cases.
- ▶ To promote, improve, and facilitate inter-agency cooperation between criminal and dependency investigations.

Participating Agencies

Nevada County District Attorney’s Office

Prosecutes criminal cases if there is sufficient evidence to support criminal charges.

Nevada County, County Counsel Office

Oversees the filing of 300 Petitions (Welfare & Institutions Code) if the evidence gathered is sufficient to support dependency proceedings.

- **Nevada County Sheriff’s Department**
- **Grass Valley Police Department**
- **Nevada City Police Department**
- **Truckee Police Department**

These agencies conduct initial investigations of reported child abuse. Drafts reports, takes witness statements, collects evidence, secures crime scenes, obtains search warrants, and are generally responsible for the overall criminal investigation.

Nevada County Human Services Agency’s Child Protective Services

Assesses the level of risk to children of in-home abuse cases and takes steps to insure protection of the children. They also provide follow up to child protection issues.

Nevada County Victim Witness Assistance Center

Provides liaison between the victim and the criminal justice system. Will advocate for the victim and the victim’s family up to and including criminal court proceedings.

Questions:

Q: Are parents/guardians allowed in the interview?

A: No. The interview is forensic in nature and is one part of the investigative process. Non-offending parents/guardians will receive an orientation regarding the MDIT process.

Q: How long does the investigation take?

A: A few days to several months.

Q: What happens after the interview?

A: Once the investigating officer has completed his/her report and determines there is sufficient information to submit the case to the district attorney’s office, the case is reviewed by a prosecutor and charges may or may not be filed with the court. If the suspect is a juvenile, the crime report is submitted to the probation department and if deemed appropriate, then forwarded to the district attorney’s office for a final decision regarding charges being filed.

Q: Are all crime reports sent to the district attorney’s office?

A: No. Sometimes there is insufficient evidence to even substantiate that a crime has been committed so the report may just stay with the investigating agency.

Q: If new information is made available at a later time, can a crime report be submitted to the district attorney’s office then?

A: Yes, but this may be up to the discretion of the investigating officer.

Q: Can my child receive counseling related to his or her victimization?

A: It may be beneficial for your child to receive counseling from a licensed and experienced therapist. If your child is determined to be a victim of a crime, he/she may be eligible for counseling reimbursed by the California Victim Compensation Program (vcgcb.ca.gov/victims). You may apply for the Compensation Program through any California Victim Witness Assistance Center, on your own, or through an attorney. If the crime occurred in another state, you may want to contact the Compensation Program in that area.

Q: Can I have a copy of the crime report?

A: This may depend on several factors. It is unlikely the report will be released if there is an open investigation or if the perpetrator is a juvenile. It may be possible to obtain a copy of the report if criminal charges are filed by the district attorney's office, however, this may also be left to the discretion of the prosecuting attorney. In most cases a report will be made available to the victim.

If you have any other questions, please contact the Nevada County Victim/Witness Assistance Center.

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Nevada County Community Services

Adult Protective Services	265-1639
Behavioral Health Department	265-1437
24-Hour Crisis Line	265-5811
California Highway Patrol	477-4900
Truckee	582-7570
Child Protective Services	273-4291
Community Resources & Information	211
District Attorney	
Nevada City Office	265-1301
Truckee Office	582-7832
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Coalition	272-2046
24-Hour Crisis Line	272-3467
Grass Valley Police Department	477-4600
Helpline (Information & Assistance)	273-2273
Lawyer Referral Service	272-5962
Nevada City Police Department	
Business	265-4700
24 hour line	265-2626
Probation	
Adult	265-1200
Juvenile	265-1300
Truckee	582-7804
Public Law Center	470-2594
Sheriff's Office	
Emergency	911
Nevada City Business	265-1471
Nevada City 24 Hour Hot Line	265-7880
Truckee Business	582-7838
Superior Court Office	
Nevada City Criminal	265-1311
Nevada City Civil	265-1294
Nevada City Family	265-1293
Truckee	582-7866
Tahoe Safe Alliance, Truckee	582-9117
24-Hour Crisis Line	1-800-736-1060
Truckee Police Department	550-2323
Victim Witness	
Nevada City Office	265-1301
Truckee Office	582-7832
Women of Worth	272-6851

Multi-Disciplinary Interviews



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Victim Witness Assistance Center
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