

# Multidisciplinary Investigation of **Child Maltreatment**

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# DEDICATION

To my sons, Derek, Blake, and Jeremy,  
Always remember...you are my favorite in the whole wide world!

To all the maltreated children, past and present,

*“May the sufferer be thoroughly healed, in spirit and in body.” [Mi Sheberah]*  
*“Have mercy on us, and fulfill among us what is written in your Scripture: I shall give peace upon  
the earth, and you shall lie down with none to make you afraid.” [A Prayer for peace]*

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In loving memory of George Maras

*Την πάσαν ελπίδα μου εις Σε ανατίθημι, Μήτηρ του Θεού, φύλαζόν όλα τα παιδιά υπό την  
σκέπην Σου.*



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# PREFACE

Dr. Lauren R. Shapiro and Dr. Marie-Helen Maras periodically provide training in child and adolescent development, forensic interviewing, and child abuse investigations to the New York City Administration for Child Services. Both authors are trained in criminal justice, with one of the authors also specializing in the field of cognitive and developmental psychology and the other also having expertise in law and investigations. The main problem encountered by the authors when selecting a textbook for the courses they teach is that no single textbook on the market today combines normative development and maltreatment. The authors have had to supplement substantially the textbook they are currently using for their courses with their own notes from their practical experience in the field, numerous academic articles, and examples of real-world cases in order to provide students with the information required to conduct abuse and neglect investigations. Indeed, the available textbooks on the market only partially cover the type of information needed to fully understand maltreatment in American society and how to conduct child abuse investigations. Current books in this area provide a single discipline approach and are limited in their ability to address both normative and abnormal development, as well as criminal justice investigation and prosecution. This book seeks to fill this void in available literature by comprehensively covering normative development of children and adolescents and the signs, symptoms, and consequences of various forms of maltreatment. Furthermore, it provides a complete overview of the ways in which to conduct abuse interviews and investigations and includes a mix of cutting edge research combined with multidisciplinary coverage of knowledge of development in abused and non-abused children and adolescents.

This definitive textbook is written for professionals in criminal justice, law, psychology, social work, medicine, and human services and students in undergraduate and graduate courses in those fields as it provides them with the social science and legal background to appropriately conduct abuse investigations. Specifically, it is an ideal primary text for child abuse and neglect courses and can be a valuable supplemental resource for investigation

and victimology courses. Additionally, social science, human service, medical, and legal professionals will be given advanced knowledge and investigation procedures to allow them to assess allegations of neglect and maltreatment appropriate to their field of discipline through analogies, examples, and illustrations.

This book also appeals to a wide range of different groups. Given that this textbook covers the knowledge and investigatory tools currently used in the field, it will be of interest to human service and law enforcement agencies plus social science professionals working with abused children and adolescents. Specifically, this book is intended for:

- instructors teaching a course on child abuse and neglect and related fields;
- students and professionals seeking a career in the field of child abuse;
- law enforcement agents seeking to expand their knowledge of investigations to the field of child abuse;
- legal professionals seeking to understand abuse; and
- child protective service workers who may be required by referrals to conduct abuse investigations.

Anyone interested in learning about the impact of maltreatment on development and child maltreatment investigations will also benefit from this text.

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