

Can you Hear Me? Connecting the Pieces

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National Center on
Criminal Justice & Disability

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Polling Question

Do authority figures unintentionally help to increase the risk of people with disabilities becoming victims of sexual violence and other crimes?

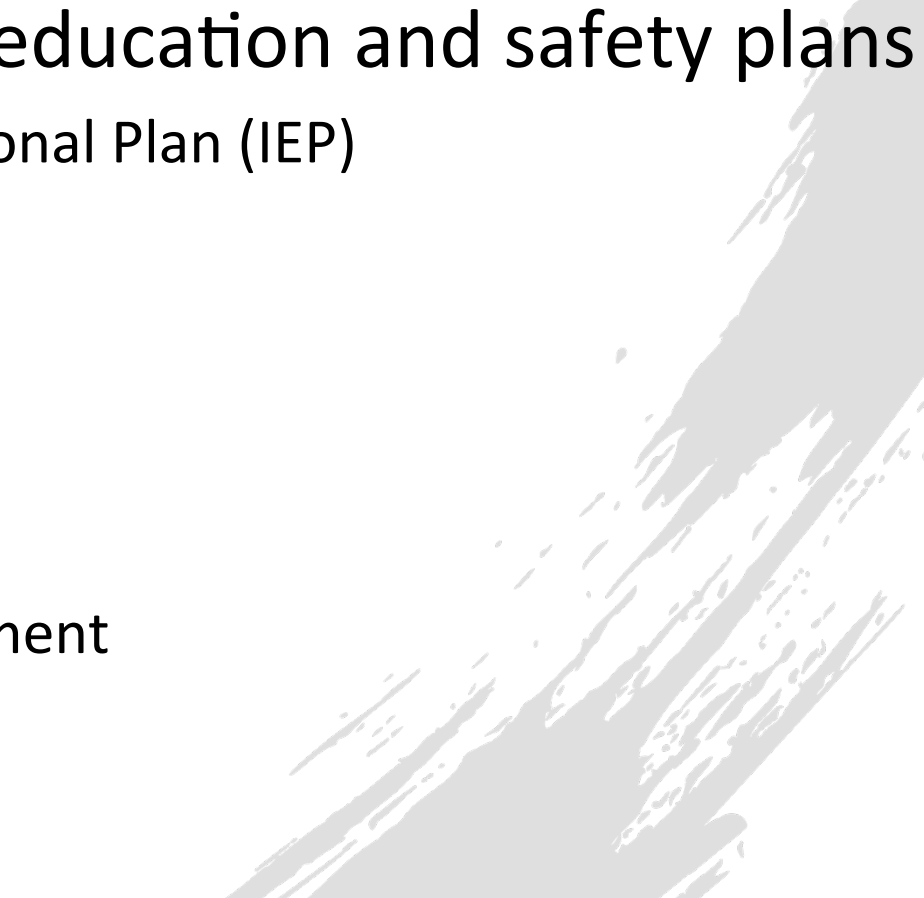


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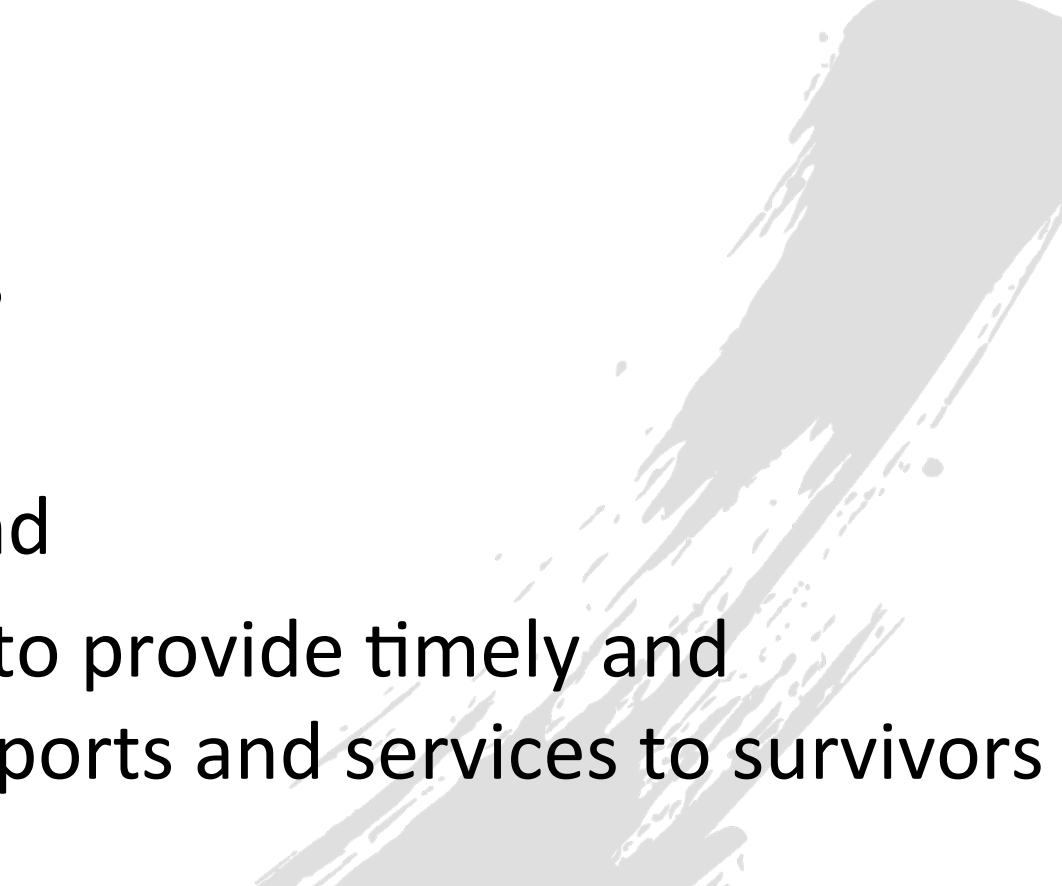
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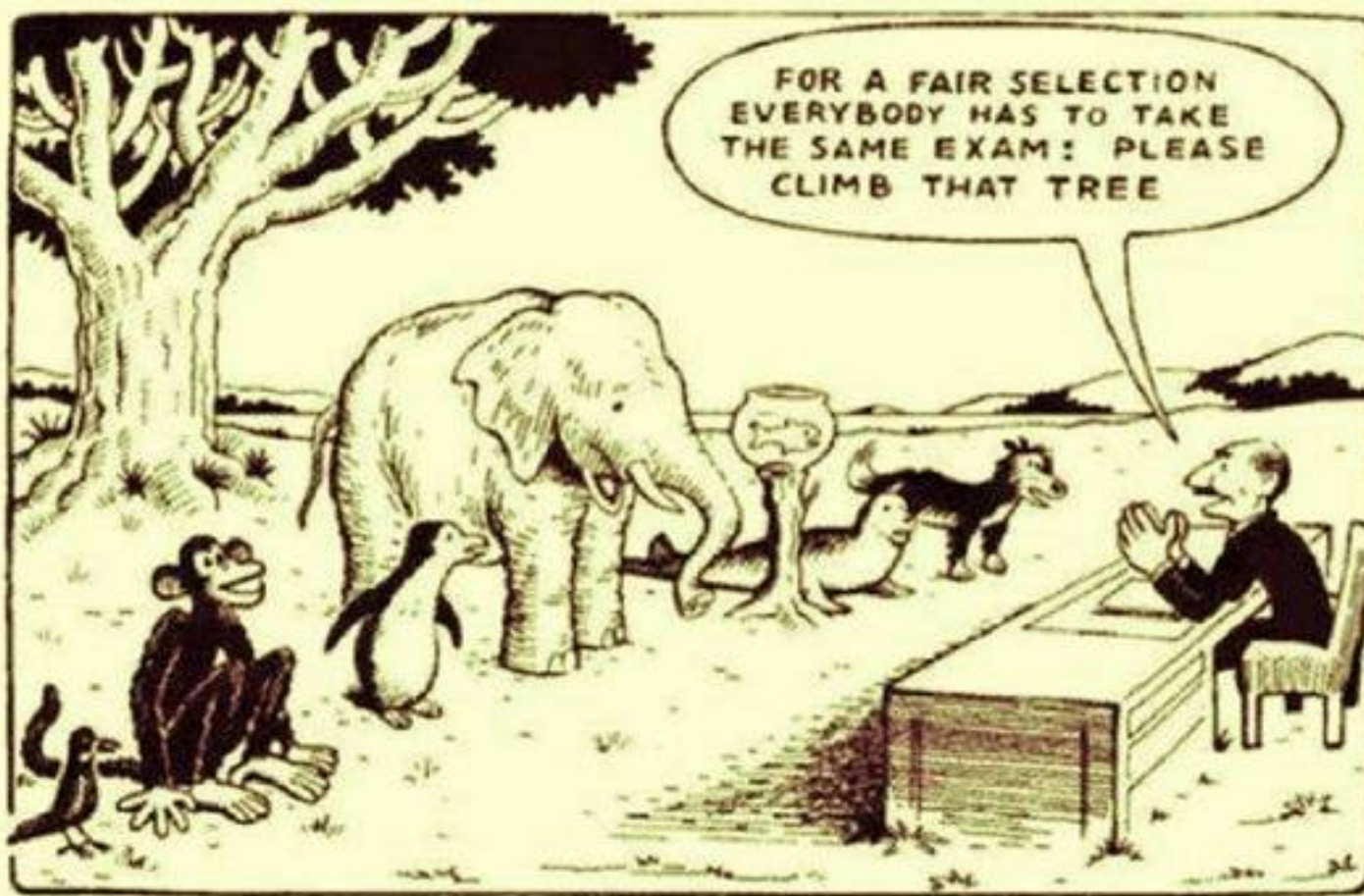
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Recognizing the gaps and nuances that impact the service delivery system

- Personal safety education and safety plans
 - Individual Educational Plan (IEP)
 - Communication
 - Hotline
 - Counseling
 - Education
 - Court Accompaniment
 - Compliance
 - Touch
- 

Are we a gap?

- Our attitudes
 - Our biases
 - Our experiences
 - Our education
 - Our skill level and
 - Our willingness to provide timely and appropriate supports and services to survivors with disabilities.
- 



To be fair:
All personal
safety
materials
will be the
same.

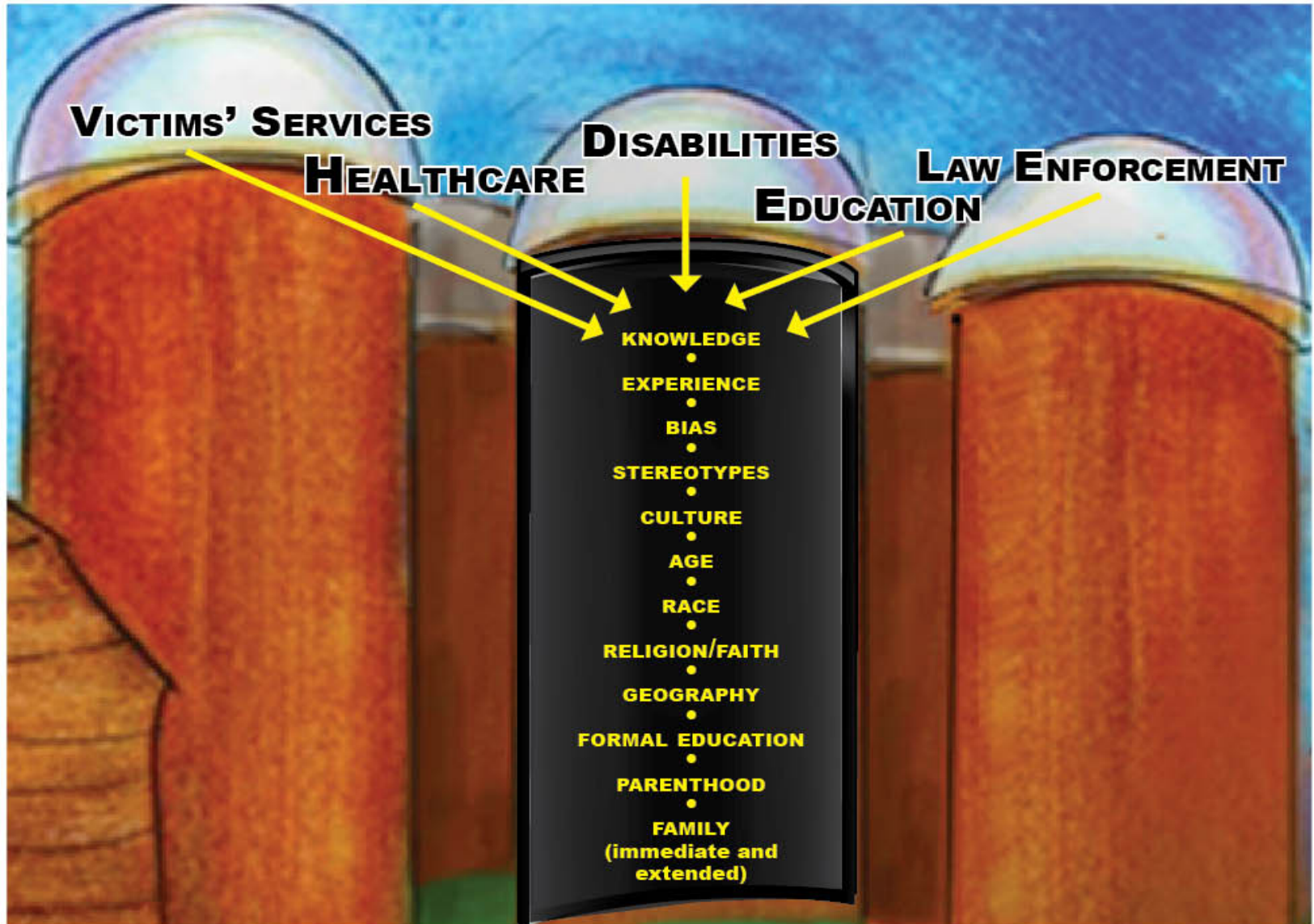
Our Education System

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

- Albert Einstein

Disabilities
are all the
same! One
curriculum
will work for
everyone!

Silo Collaboration



Polling Question

What are some external signals of authority?

Select all that apply.



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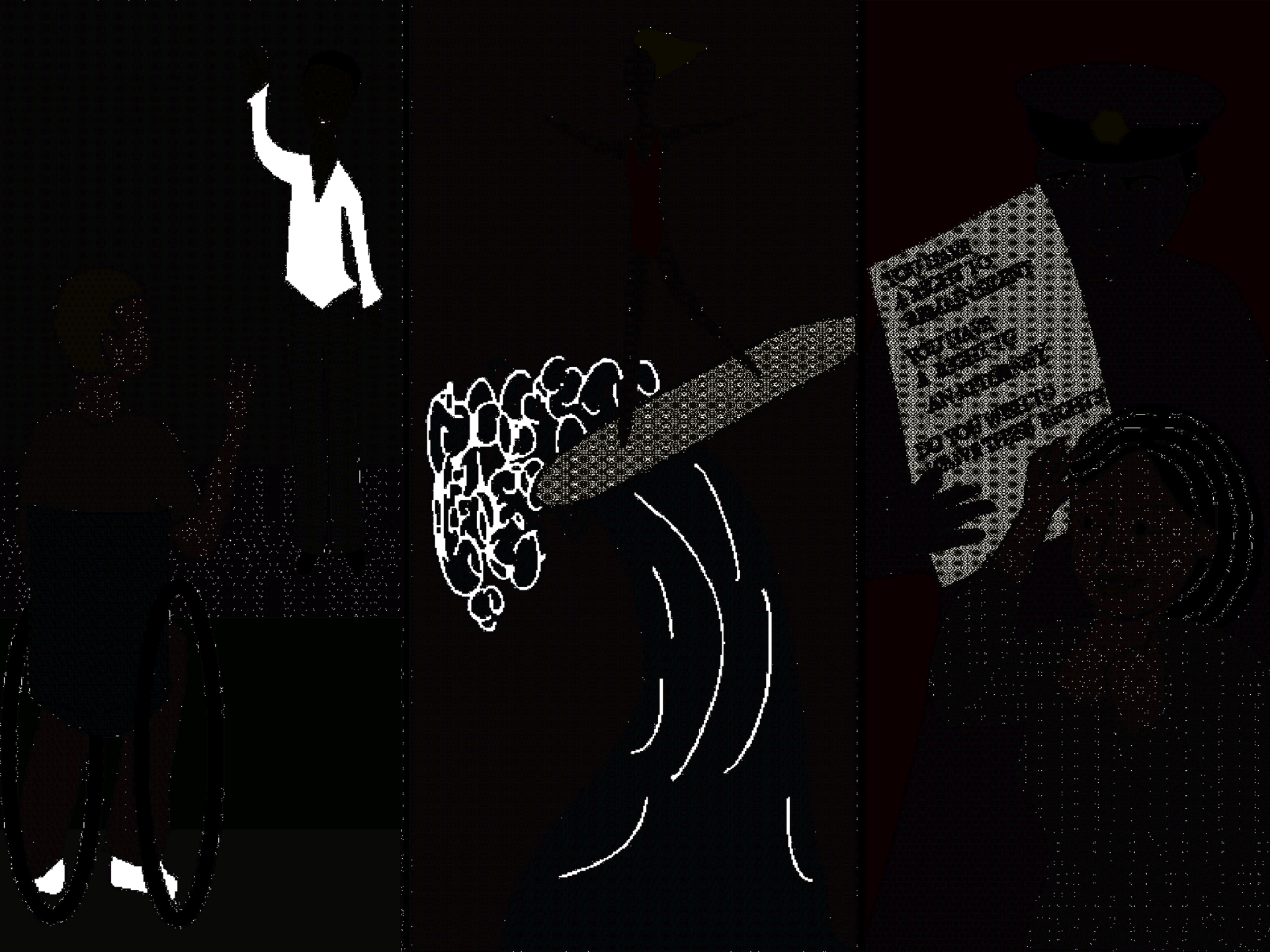
Compliance/Authority Figures

- Do we unintentionally help to create victims and/or offenders with disabilities?
- Do we reward people with disabilities for doing what we ask of them? Does this increase their vulnerability?
- Do we recognize our own influence and power when interacting with people with disabilities.

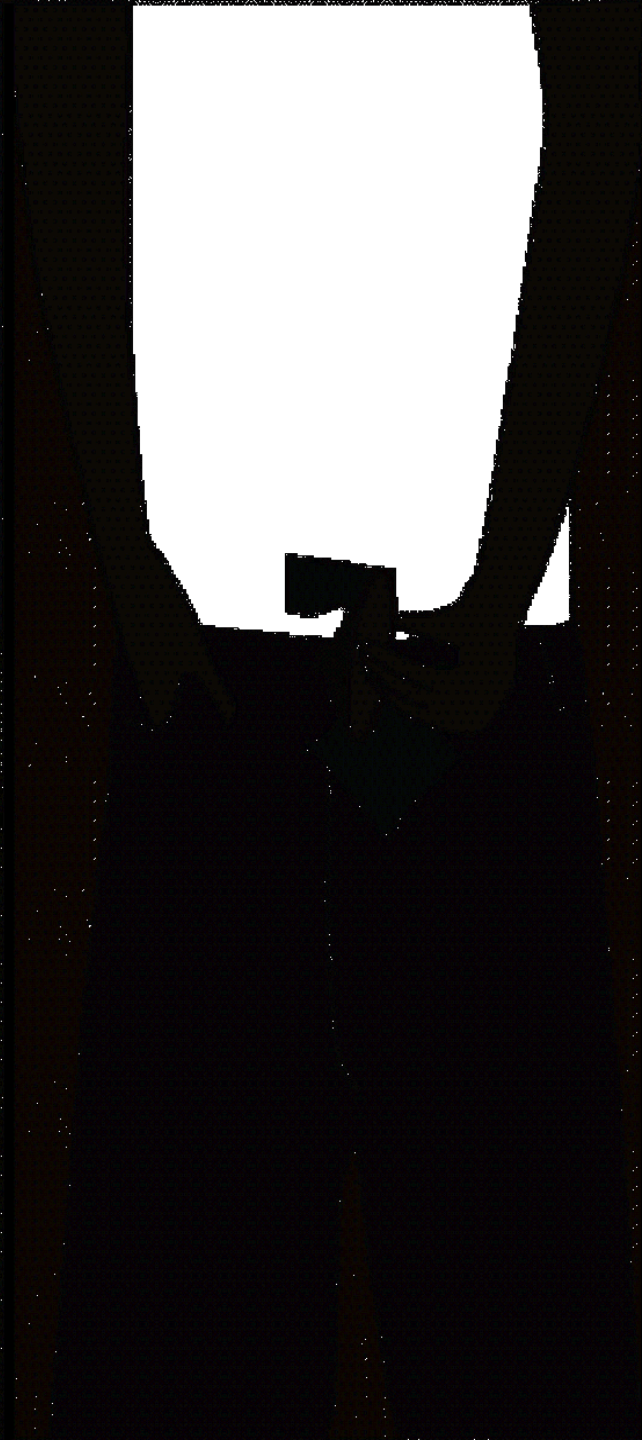
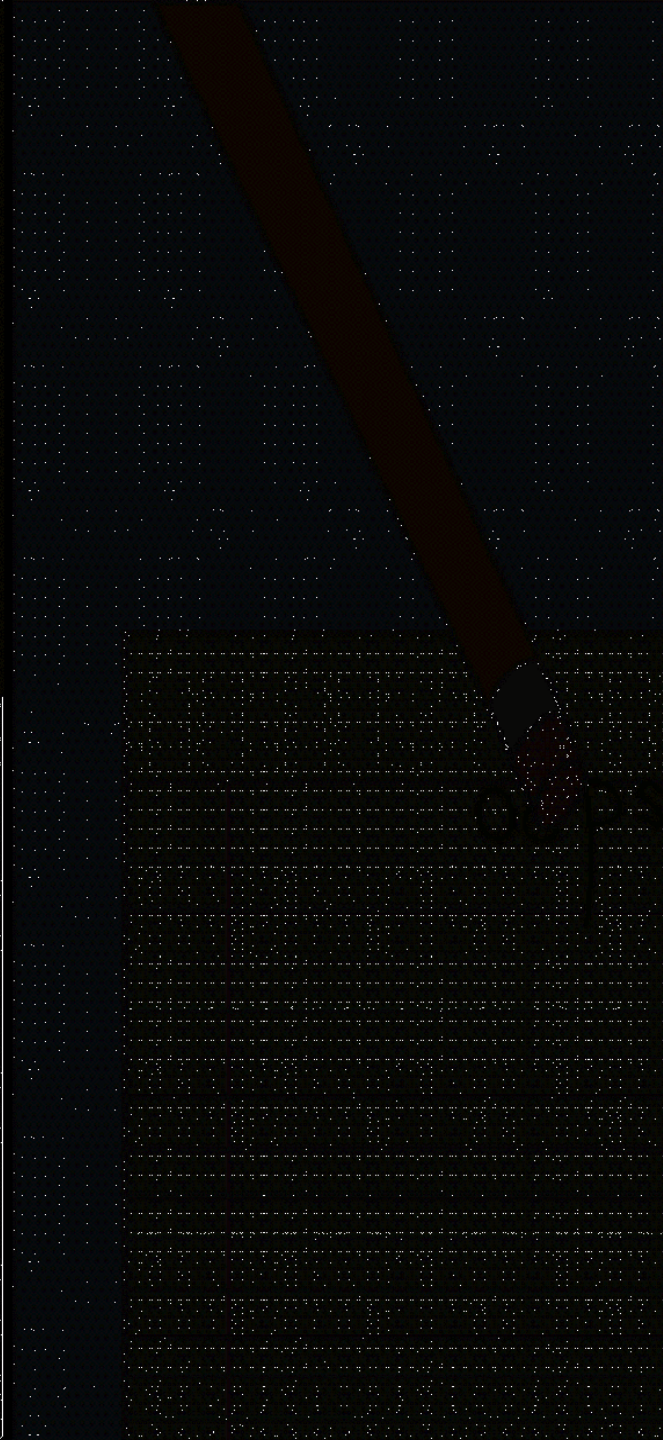
Communication Can Be Abstract

- Unfamiliar with the Word, Context, Experience or Communication Strategy
 - Wave?
 - Rubber?
- What if the individual doesn't understand the word or the context in which the word is used?
- Communication can be fleeting and context dependent
- Vocabulary is generational and cultural





LETTERS
A LETTER TO
MANAGEMENT
LETTERS
A LETTER TO
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LETTERS
A LETTER TO
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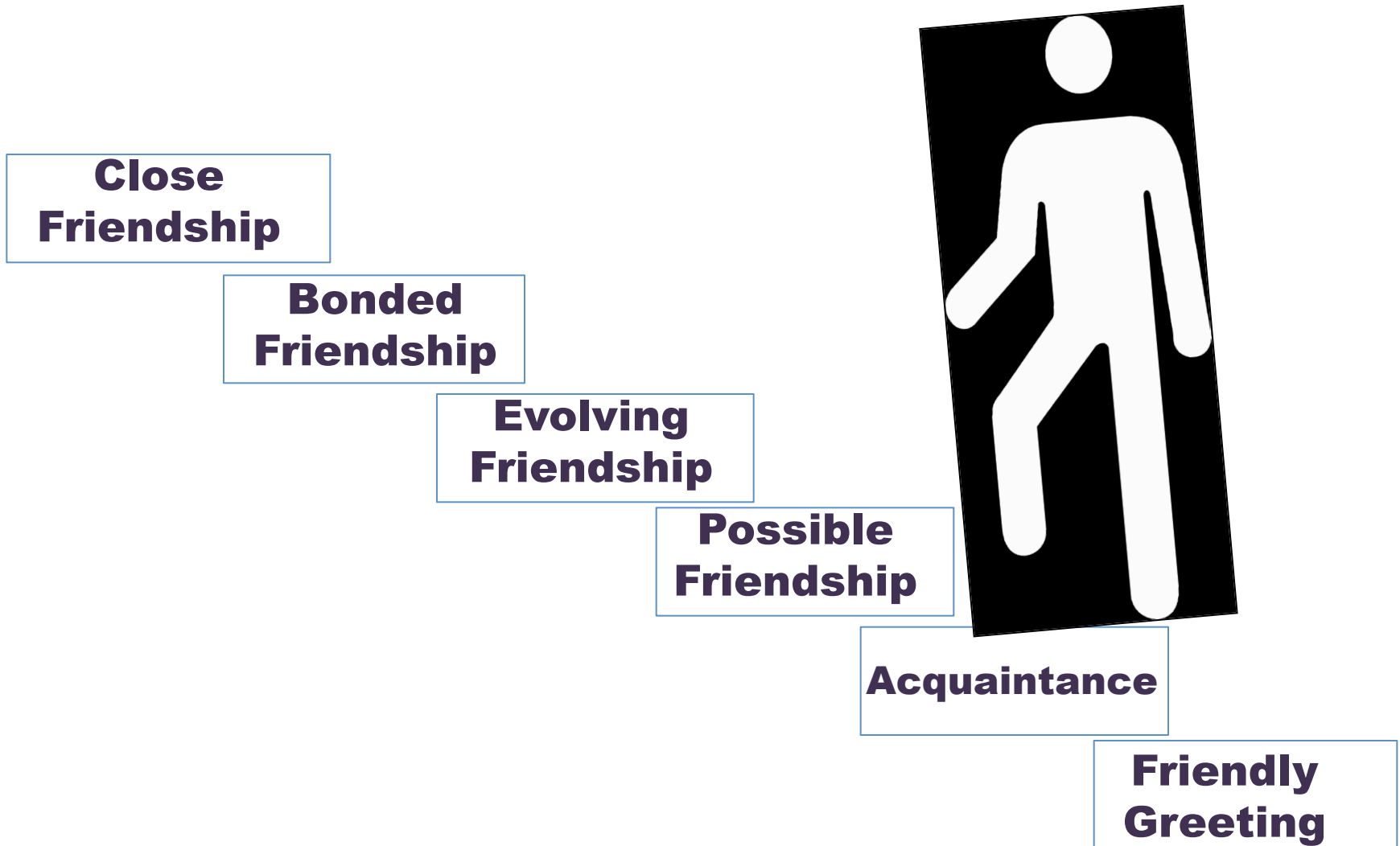


Abstract and Confusing Concepts

- What's a friend?
How long must you know someone before you are friends?
- How do you distinguish between a boyfriend and a boy who is a friend? A Girlfriend and a girl who is a friend?
- Friendly \neq friend
- What's the difference between flirting and sexual harassment? A smile and a smirk?

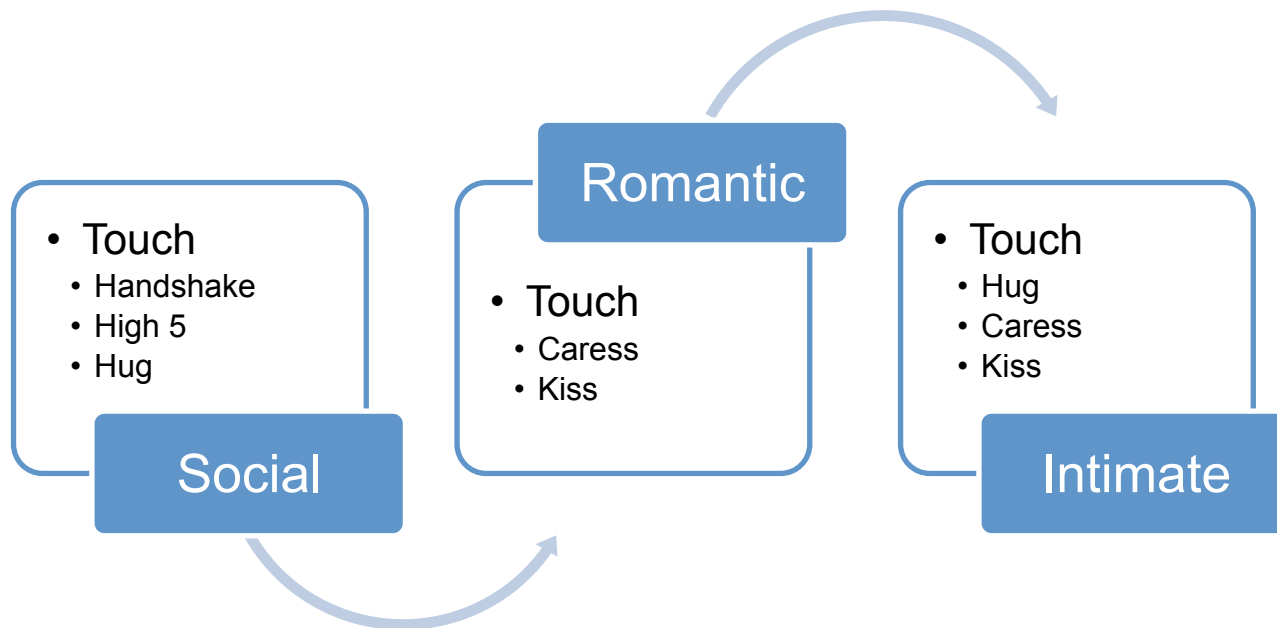
Friendly Does Not Always Make a Friendship.

Adapted from Michelle Garcia's *Social Thinking Worksheets for Tweens and Teens*.



Friendships and Relationships Come in all Forms and Many will Change Over Time.

The meaning of touch also changes over time.

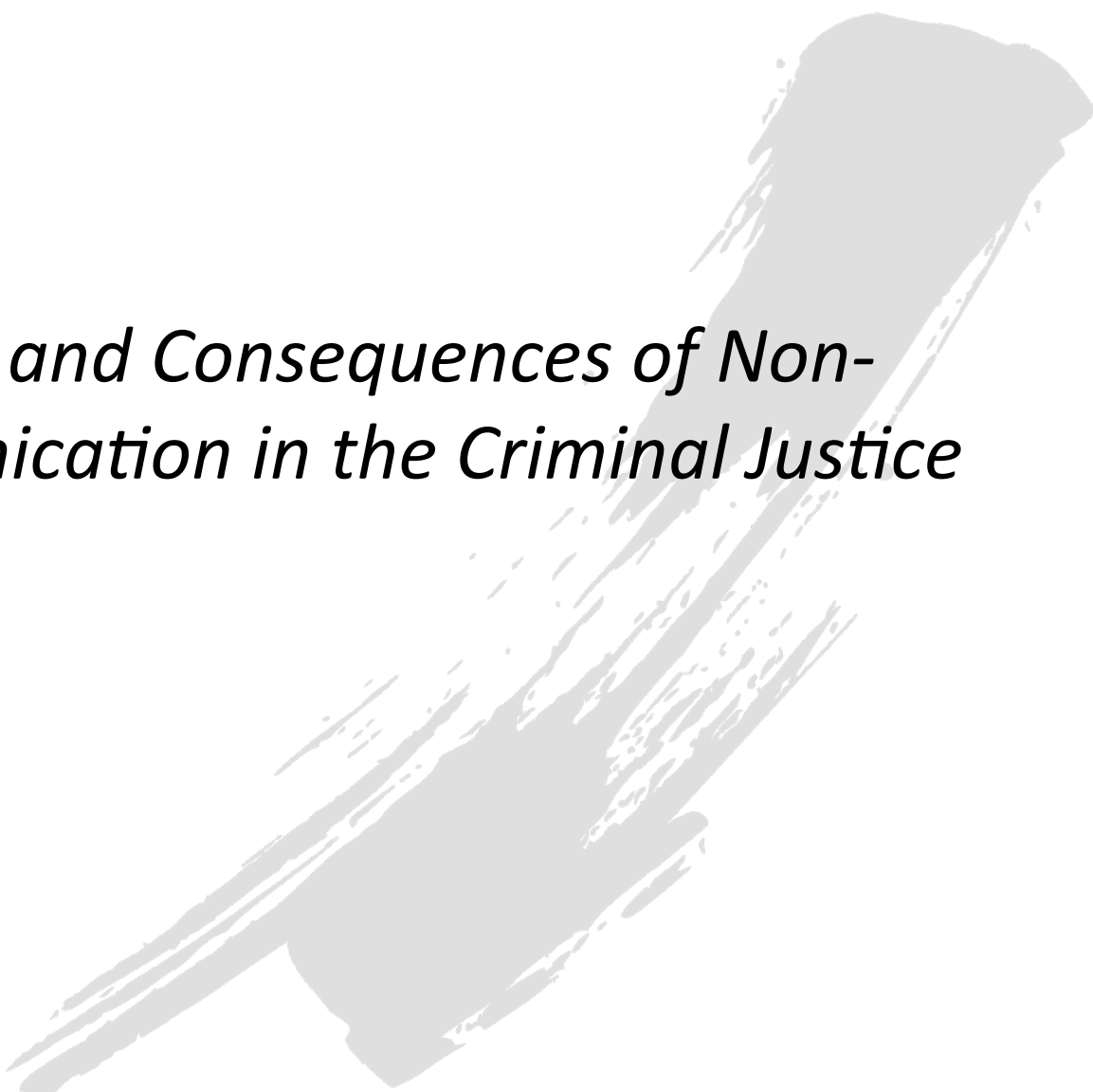


Unintentional Consequences?


When talking about personal relationships that focuses on: fear (don't do..., stay away from, no one will believe you); punishment (you'll get into trouble with the school, maybe even the police); and contains misinformation the result is silencing victims!

Communication

The Importance and Consequences of Non-Typical Communication in the Criminal Justice System.



Types of Communicative Interactions

- Express needs and wants
Ask for directions, order food
 - Information transfer
Problem solve, personal stories, details
 - Social closeness
Content not as important as interaction
Develop and maintain relationships
Jokes
 - Social etiquette
Politeness (thank you, please, etc.)
- 

Communication is key to...

- Disclosing and reporting abuse
- Testifying in court
- Receiving appropriate supports and services

The “best” victim is the one who can’t tell.

“Don’t assume that because I don’t speak, I don’t have nothing to say”

Sexual assault survivor using a speech generated device

The “best” victim is the one who can’t tell.

Judicial Proceedings Differ from Typical Communication

- Emotional context – fear; anxiety
- Physical context - unfamiliar environment; unfamiliar people
- Form of communication – formal, Q&A versus conversational
- Complexity of linguistic INPUT – extra processing demand
- Use of words not frequently used

Polling Question

What is the average length of a hug between two people?



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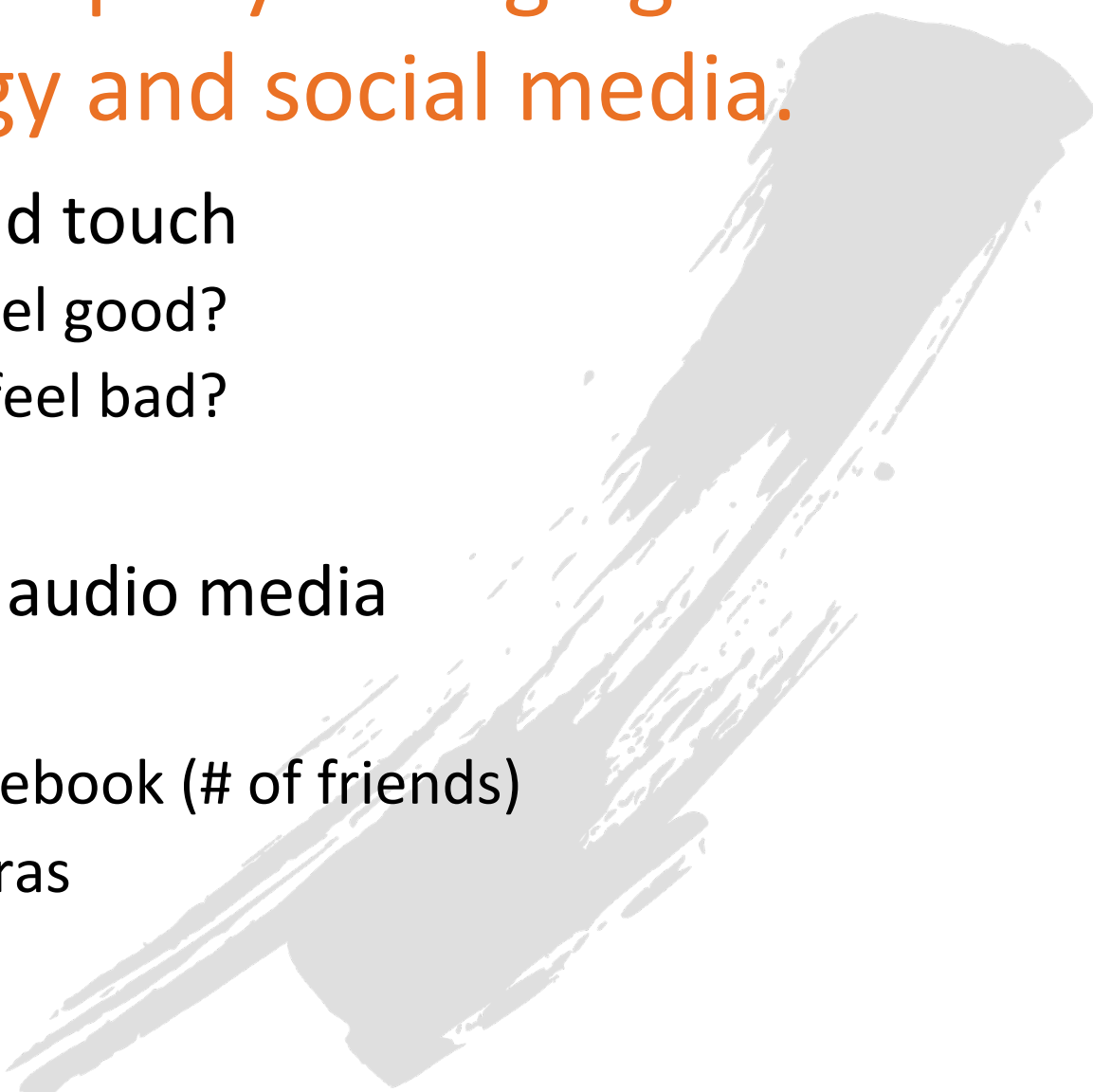
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When is an Embrace a Hug or a Hold?

- When does a hug become a hold?
- How do you tell the difference?
 - Personal experience
 - Professional experience/guidelines

Are the consequences the same?

Personal Safety curricula must keep pace with the rapidly changing field of technology and social media.

- Good touch vs bad touch
 - Can bad touch feel good?
 - Can good touch feel bad?
 - Public vs Private
 - Visual, print, and audio media
 - Friend vs friendly
 - Social media/Facebook (# of friends)
 - Cell phone cameras
- 

Public or Private?



Gillette



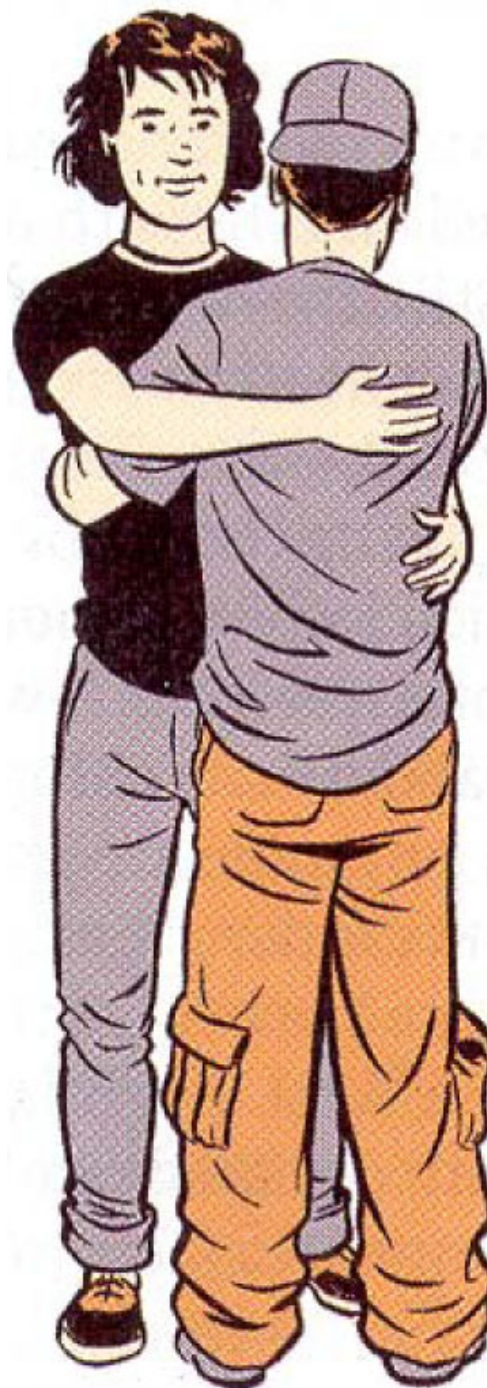
SOCIAL NORMS

Are Hugs the New Handshakes? From the White House to *The Real World* to your office, greetings are getting warm and fuzzy

Time, February 23, 2009

The Full Frontal

*Total body contact, heart-
To-heart embrace and firm
Squeeze. For parents, children
And good friends*



The Ass-Out Hug

*Nothing touches below the
Shoulders. Reserved for the
Office, bad dates and references
to Vince Vaughn*



The Hip-Hop Hug

A.k.a. the man hug and the Hetero hug. Shake with right Hand and hug with left, two Slaps on back





Social closeness?
Social etiquette?

Polling Question

Of the five basic human senses, which one is our only reciprocal sense and also creates confusion when developing sexual violence training materials?



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Touch

The Good, the Iffy, and the Bad



TOUCH is our first language

Before we can see an image, smell an odor, taste a flavor, or hear a sound, we experience others and ourselves through touch...

- Touch is the largest sense organ - because the skin is the largest organ of the body (Field, 2001).

It is our only reciprocal sense – we can not touch another without being touched ourselves. (Hunter & Struve, 1998).

Touch, Ethnicity, Culture

- The meaning of touch can only be understood in its cultural context

(Halbrook & Duplechin, 1994).

- People from different cultures were observed in casual conversation and the number of times they touched in one hour were counted

(Jourard, 1996)

- Puerto Rico – 180 times
- United States – 2 times
- Paris – 110 times
- London – 0 times

Types of Touch

- Ritualistic/socially accepted gestures for greeting/ departing
- Consolation touch – in response to grief, sadness
- Reassuring - geared to encourage and reassure
- Playful – wrestling with a child, playing sports

Types of Touch

- Instructional/modeling – model
- Inadvertent - accidental form of touch, something that is unintentional, involuntary, by chance
- Celebratory/congratulatory – complimentary or approval, a “high-five,” pat on back
- Task-Oriented – auxiliary to task at hand, such as offering a hand to help someone stand, bracing an arm to keep someone from falling (Zur & Nordmarker, 2004)

Re-Thinking “Touch”

- Avoid “inappropriate,” “bad,” and “good” touch.”
 - Inappropriate often used as an euphemism for criminal behavior.
 - Bad touch can feel good.
- Try using “OK” and “Not OK.”
- Talk about the purpose for the touch and the person doing the touching.

In Summary...

We can eliminate the gaps and build awareness around social sexual nuances by understanding the fluidity and interconnectedness of

- **Sexual Health**
 - Boundaries, Rights, Responsibilities
- **Vocabulary, Sexual Verbal Expression**
 - Understanding social contracts
- **Criminal Justice System**
 - Equal Justice for
 - Victims, witnesses, defendants

Contact Information

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Next Webinar

- Attend the next webinar on April 24 at 1:30PM EST– **“Assisting Crime Victims with Disabilities: Identifying Barriers & Improving Law Enforcement Response”** with Dr. Rosemary Hughes and Sergeant (retired) Michael Sullivan.

Contact us at:

NCCJDinfo@thearc.org

Questions?

Survey:

- <http://fs8.formsite.com/thearcwebinar/form52/index.html>

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