

Traumagenic Dynamics Theory¹

| AREA OF IMPACT | CHILD'S VULNERABILITY | CHARACTERISTICS |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Traumatic sexualization | Sexual development | Overly curious sexual behaviors Re-enacts abusive acts Aggressive sexual behaviors Sexual dysfunction Sexual identity confusion Sexual fears/addictions |
| Betrayal | Trust | Clinging behavior Damaged trust Vulnerability to future abuse Social withdrawal Depression Anxiety Physical ailments |
| Stigmatization | Disclosure of sexual abuse: Parents' reaction | Feels disgusting Low self-esteem Self-deprecation/self-injury Suicide Guilt Shame Feels odd Delinquency Substance abuse |
| Powerlessness | Tricked/not believed | Anxiety Sleeping disorders Fears Hyper-vigilance Learned helplessness Becoming an abuser Re-enacts "victim" role in other areas of life Tolerates continued abuse |

¹ Adapted from Finkelhor, D. & A. Brown. (1985). The traumatic impact of Child Sexual Abuse: A conceptualization. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 55 (October).