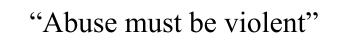


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# Catherine & Alexis

- 9-year-old cousins
- Defendant: Alex A., ex-boyfriend of Catherine's mother who had babysat both girls
- Evidence: Girl's testimony, child pornography, defendant's admissions.
- Case reveals assumptions about abuse



- Q. Did you ever bleed after he put those tubes --
- A. No.
- Q. No. Did you ever hurt in any way?
- A. No.

## "Victims appear traumatized"

• Defense: "[I]t did not appear she had a lot of trouble telling you what her story was."

### "Victims resist contact"

Defense: [S]he said that she stayed at home with Alex when she could have gone with her mother and brother....I asked her why would she stay home with Alex, and she was kind of -- well, I was kind of tired and my leg hurt....If you have a girl who is being abused every weekend -- and I mean for two to three hours locked in a room, being threatened with her family is going to be killed if she says anything, I would picture in my mind a child who would be clinging to either her mother, her brothers, somebody, and that it would be something that people would notice.

### "The number is important"

THE COURT: How many times did that happen?

THE WITNESS: I don't know. Same--fifty times out of the whole entire year. I don't really do numbers--around –

THE COURT: About how many times did it happen all together? How many times did he touch his private part to your private part?

THE WITNESS: I don't know how many.

THE COURT: Okay. More than once?

THE WITNESS: More than once, yes.

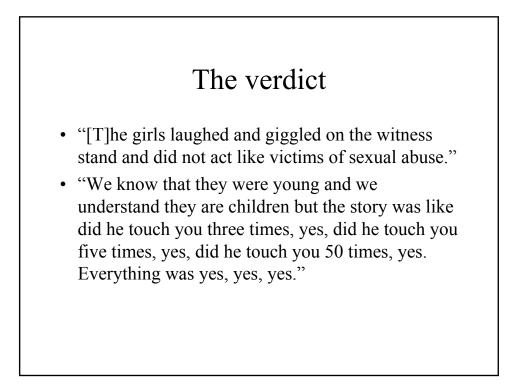
THE COURT: More than five times?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

# "Direct questions are necessary"

Q. Okay. While he was baby-sitting you, did he ever touch you in a way that you didn't like? MR. POZZA: Objection. Leading, Your Honor. THE COURT: Overruled. You may answer that question. THE WITNESS: Yes. Q. (BY MR. DICKERSON) Okay. Where did he touch you? A. In my private area. Q. Okay. Is the private area your groin area right do you understand? MR. POZZA: Objection. Leading, Your Honor. THE COURT: The objection is sustained. What is your private area? Where is it? THE WITNESS: Down here. (Indicating.) THE COURT: Okay. The witness is pointing to the area between her legs. MR. DICKERSON: Thank you, Your Honor. THE WITNESS: Yes. Q. (BY MR. DICKERSON) What would he do? Would he touch you over your clothes or under your clothes? A. Under.

"Direct questions are ne	ecessary"
THE WITNESS: Yes.	
A. In my private area.	
THE WITNESS: Down here. (Indicating.)	
THE WITNESS: Yes.	
A. Under.	



# Post Script: Samantha

- 18 months after acquittal
- 6 year-old abducted, raped, and murdered
- Alex A. arrested after DNA testing



### CHILD ABDUCTION SUSPECT

Blonde carly bair, one front tooth missing. <u>SUSPECT DESCRIPTION</u>: Made Hisparic, 25-49 years, block hair and this black mastache, Wearing powder blue batten down shint (no further description). Driving a light green 2-door vehicle, possibly a

BETAILS: Vision was playing on Westeld Dr, in Hanton, California at about 1530 hours on Mondey 7-1540. Suspect drove up to her, existed his vehicle, and adout her if she had seen his puppy. He dress publicad her vision, publics in his exist, and done energy. CONTACT, O.C. Sheriff report 8: 02-146213. Pienes numbers: 714-691-2481 (Samaon substation), or accent and the second se

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