

## **What is a Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center?**

A Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center (MDIC) is a place where children who are victims of child abuse can be interviewed by professionals in a manner that is non-threatening and decreases the trauma of having to tell someone about the abuse. It is also a place that allows law enforcement and CPS to record the interview to ensure that they are able to successfully prosecute the case in court.

Colusa County's MDIC consists of a comfortable space where a trained interviewer and the child conduct the interview. This room is equipped with two cameras that have the ability to "pan" the room and zoom in on objects, as well as one stationary camera. These three cameras, and a ceiling mount microphone, are linked to a Digital Video Recorder (DVR) in an audio/visual room where a MDIC team is gathered. This team consists of Law Enforcement, CPS, Mental Health Counselors, County Council and representation from the District Attorney's office.

The audio/visual room is home to all of the technology. The DVR receives the images and audio from the interview room and records it onto its hard drive. The team can communicate with the interviewer at any time via a wireless ear bud that the interviewer is wearing. If the team wants a question asked or something clarified they can ask without interrupting the process. When the interview is complete the images and audio are downloaded onto a DVD that includes a watermark for authentication which can then be used to prosecute the offender. This room is also equipped with a digital voice recorder that can be downloaded onto a PC and copied onto a CD so that the DA's office can have the conversation transcribed for court proceedings.

Colusa County's MDIC is one of the most advanced in the State of California and most likely on a National level. We are proud of our accomplishments and grateful to all of those that supported us in the process.