

When Lightning Strikes Article Series

“The Mirage”

by Lawrence W. Daly

Shocked, feeling numb? Child protective services take your children? Have you been accused of a serious sexual assault case? Have you turned to the yellow pages and the attorneys and investigators all look the same? What should you do?

Confused and feeling helpless? If lightning was to strike in your life, would you know what to do? Who to call? How to protect your rights? If you don't know what to do, then you need to know the impact of what it means when lightning strikes in your life.

Call us today at Systematic Investigations. We not only know the answers to those questions when lightning strikes in your life, we have the know how and can resolve your problem in a positive fashion.

“The Mirage”

I was sitting at my desk the other night, looking at all the work I had sitting on my desk. The work seems to be coming in and out like a factory line. As I was sitting pondering on which project to begin next an idea came to my mind that has never surfaced in the seventeen plus years that I have worked in the child sexual abuse field. I don't know if I could call it an idea, but the “Mirage” surfaced and would not go away. When this happens it generally indicates that a newsletter or an article is going to be written. A Mirage, what could this mean?

I put myself in one of those cowboy movies where the cowboy is trying to ride across the desert, his horse has died from the heat and the lack of water. Then there is this strong cowboy who is weak, crawling and all of a sudden just when all hope is lost, he looks up and sees a pool of water. He runs and jumps into the image of the water pool, only to find out that the pool of water he saw was a mirage.

The analogy of this lesson will become controversial because I have no scientific data to support what I am about to write, but my heart tells me I am on the right track and in time, the “Mirage” theory will become one that all professionals will be speaking about.

A “Mirage” is according to the Oxford American Dictionary “An optical illusion caused by atmospheric conditions, especially making sheets of water seem to appear in a desert or on a hot road.”

I don't believe the authors of this dictionary ever assumed that a forensic investigator would be comparing their definition to possible child sexual abuse. However, if you think logically and reasonably isn't the definition provided by the authors of the definition “Mirage” missing an aspect of the meaning. Place yourself in those cowboys' shoes. What is it that you would be thinking about all the time you are walking across the desert? That's right water. So do the authors do the definition justice? Isn't the second aspect

of the “Mirage” influenced by the thoughts of the cowboy walking across the desert dying of thirst? Ultimately the cowboy wants to believe that he is nearing a pool of water that will bring his pain to an end and kept his life from not existing.

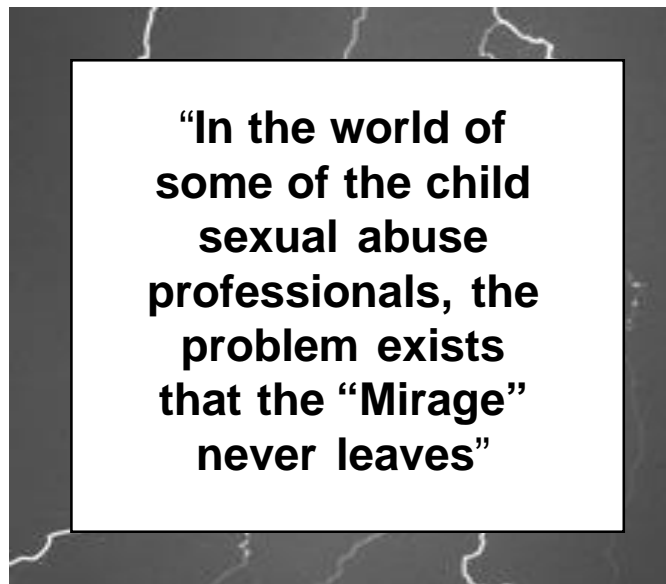
In child sex abuse, there are professionals in the system who go to work everyday looking for a “Mirage”. Objectivity has left. Their atmospheric conditions consist of a multitude of beliefs which science has shown not to be reliable.

So why are we so quick to see the “Mirage”? Is it something in the air that makes our minds adjust to the lack of objectivity and move into an area, where even if the physical evidence doesn't exist, the “Mirage” will be sufficient to meet their needs?

I have thought through my analogy. I think I would rather be the cowboy and have the knowledge that when I hit the ground that the pool of water doesn't exist. I would know what my odds of survival were at that time and take the necessary action to change the circumstances in order to survive.

In the world of some of the child sexual abuse professionals, the problem exists that the “Mirage” never leaves. In fact the “Mirage” does not dissipate as they approach it, it becomes an overflowing of water. There are no reasons for them to believe otherwise, because statistics have demonstrated that the majority of child abuse allegations are true, or are they? If the Mirage does dissipate, the misled professional finds another “Mirage” to point the child to.

So why are child sexual abuse professionals so naive that they believe the “Mirage” will hold up under scrutiny? The reasons are simple, first and foremost; children are sexual and physically abused by people who love them every day. It is easier to believe a child when they tell you that something bad has happened to them. Moreover, last month they



had twenty new cases and each child disclosed that they were sexually and physically abused. That is a 100% positive result. However, did any of these professionals test any alternative hypothesis to ascertain just maybe their “Mirage” was not a pool of water, but a pool of dust.

Everyday I get up and I thank God for allowing me the opportunity to serve those who are misfortunately sexually abused or accused of being a child sexual abuser. I get on my knees and ask God to show me the way to find the truth in each and every case I have sitting on my desk. Over the past seventeen years, my success rate of finding the truth has been unbelievable and each day I thank God for giving me the skills and ability to know when my client is in a “Mirage” or a bowl of dust.

So, the next time you look ahead and you see a pool of water, just stop and think before you approach it. Think of the alternative hypothesis that exists that makes the pool of water so desirable. Is it really an atmospheric condition

causing your mind to be tricked, or the many biases and theories you have developed over the years which lack scientific evidence? Like I said earlier, I would rather be that old cowboy who runs and jumps into the “Mirage” only to find out that he has just jumped into a pool of dust. At least he will have the knowledge of what created his circumstances. The professionals working in the child sexual abuse need to take a few leaps themselves to understand that what appears to be may not be. I hope you are not one of those professionals who closed down their logical and reasonable critical thinking process. Remember, to walk before you run, it could cost someone their children and ultimately their children. May God direct all of us to find the truth and help those children who are actually abused.

“He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.”

Revelation 21:6

