

# **LEGAL RIGHTS VS COUNSELLING ETHICS WITH MATURE MINORS WITH REGARDS TO CONFIDENTIALITY.**

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- A child is anybody under the age of 18 yrs.
- Mature minor is from the age 13-18 yrs.
- This presentation focuses upon an 17 year old girl who was raped.

# Sexual Abuse

- Sexual abuse which is defined as child defilement by the Kenyan Laws can happen to both boys and girls.
- Can be performed by anybody
- Places of these occurrence can be anywhere
- Sexual abuse is a criminal offence punishable by 15 year jail term.

# Counselling Ethics Vs the Law of the land

- Counselling ethics: Your primary obligation is to your client, and whatever you do should be to the benefit of your client.
- Law: This is a child.
- Counsellor: This is somebody old enough to give an “informed consent”.to therapy.

# Dilemmas counsellor's face

- According to law this is a child and child defilement is a criminal offence.
- This brings the conflict between:
  - the child's right to confidentiality,
  - the parent's rights to know
  - the counsellor's set of personal values.

# Recomandations:

- Parents, Teachers need to get to know the children well.
- Home or school should be a safe place for children to talk freely.
- Empower your client to be able to share with others(parents,teachers)or anybody they trust.
- Counsellor should be well trained and competent to make the right decisions.
- Counsellors should always seek supervision particularly when in a dilemma.

# Conclusion

- Confidentiality is the corner –stone of counselling.(Robertson,2002).
- Parent (s)relationship with their children is crucial for the betterment of the family as a unit.
- Teachers/guardians play a big role in a child's life.
- The counsellor should weigh against the rational of The child's right to confidentiality and the parents right to know.
- The counsellor's duty of confidentiality is to the client not the parents

Thank you