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COMPREHENDING THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE

*Organization Theory and Child
Sexual Abuse in Organizations*

Donald Palmer

University of California, Davis

Valerie Feldman

University of California, Davis



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Comprehending the Incomprehensible

Organization Theory and Child Sexual Abuse in Organizations

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Donald Palmer
University of California, Davis

Valerie Feldman
University of California, Davis

Abstract: This Element describes child sexual abuse and the formal organizations in which it can occur, reviews extant perspectives on child abuse, and explains how an organization theory approach can advance understanding of this phenomenon. It then elaborates the main paths through which organizational structures can influence child sexual abuse in organizations and analyzes how these structures operate through these paths to impact the perpetration, detection, and response to abuse. The analysis is illustrated throughout with reports of child sexual abuse published in a variety of sources. The Element concludes with a brief discussion of the policy implications of this analysis.

Keywords: organization theory, child sexual abuse,

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