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As a mental health clinician who specializes in trauma, I am deeply concerned with the court's treatment of our young victims. If a child has experienced abuse, be it physical, psychological, sexual or emotional... that child's only defense is their voice/ to share with an adult what has/is happening and trust that adult to protect them from further abuse. The forensic interview process is geared to this dilemma specifically in that it allows for the young victim to share their experience in a manner which is legally admissible in a court of law. I am concerned at the potential for further trauma created by the process of having young victims testify - especially given the threat - real or perceived, of harm being in the presence of their perpetrator. Many times young victims are threatened to keep them from reporting to other adults - this is especially problematic in the case of expecting a testimony while being in the same room. Again, that is why the forensic interview process is so vital to these young victims - not allowing for them to be further abused/threatened/terrorized by their abusers, leading to further emotional/psychological damage. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of any assistance in this process.