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## Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Sexually Abused Children and Implications for Therapy

Robbie Jones

*University of Texas Permian Basin*

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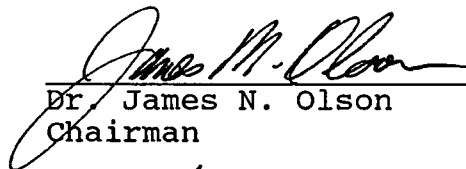
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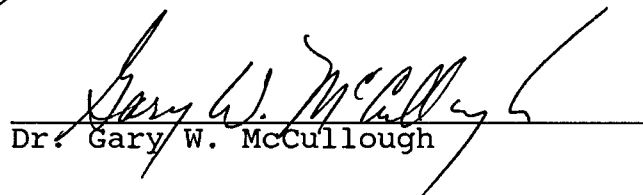
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POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN SEXUALLY ABUSED  
CHILDREN AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THERAPY

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Kay Haney  
Graduate Faculty Representative

POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN SEXUALLY ABUSED  
CHILDREN AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THERAPY

BY

ROBBIE JONES, B.A.

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Faculty of Psychology  
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin  
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for the Degree of  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

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## ABSTRACT

This study examined the symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in sexually abused children. Sixty-seven children volunteered to participate in this study. Of the 67 children, 33 (26 female and 7 male) were sexually abused and 34 (22 female and 12 male) were nonsexually abused. Several instruments were employed to assess the severity of the symptoms of PTSD including the Children's PTSD Inventory, the Child Behavior Checklist, and the Children's Depression Inventory, as well as others. The results of this study showed that sexually abused children have more symptoms of PTSD than nonsexually abused children. Early diagnosis and treatment of PTSD in children is extremely valuable because of the long term affects of childhood sexual abuse.