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Managing cases of child sexual abuse: the challenges experienced by social workers in child protection organisations located in Nkangala District, Mpumalanga

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Abstract

The main purpose of the study was to explore the challenges faced by social workers when managing cases of child sexual abuse and who are employed by child protection organisations in the Nkangala district, Mpuumalanga. A qualitative approach was adopted and a single case study research design. The sample consisted of 18 purposively selected social workers responsible for managing cases of child sexual abuse and employed by one of five non-government welfare organisations Data were gathered by conducting in-depth, face-to-face interviews with participants. The research tool that was used in this regard was the semi-structured interview guide and data were analysed using thematic analysis. Research findings provide a clear understanding of the challenges social workers face and the major recommendation made was that all social workers managing cases of child sexual abuse become familiar with the standardised procedures to be followed that are in the best interests of the child

Key terms: case management, child sexual abuse, social workers, child protection organisations.