THE NON-OFFENDING SPOUSE

- Submissive and dependent
- Depressed
- Physically and/or psychologically absent from home
- Role reversal between parent and child
- Jealous of child
- Poor relationship with her mother (grandmother of abused child)
- Sense of powerlessness
- Pattern of victimization; history of sexual abuse
- Low self esteem
- Sexual withdrawal from spouse
- Emotional withdrawal from spouse
- Rejecting of victimized child
- Views spouse as peer of children

OFFENDER

- Views outside world as hostile
- “Me First” personality traits
- Abused as a child
- Expressing non-sexual needs (power, anger)
- Background of emotional deprivation
- Poor parenting role model
- Dominant
- Poor impulse control
- Role rigidity
- Tendency towards substance abuse
- Difficulty with authority figures
- Psychologically insensitive and unaware
- Poor marital and sexual relationship with spouse
- Protective of child/jealous of child
- Inhibits child’s social contacts
- Accuses child of sexual promiscuity
**VICTIM**

- Views women as powerless and men as powerful
- Loss of childhood
- Ambivalent emotional reactions
- Blames self; feels guilty
- Low self-esteem
- Emotionally needy
- Scared to tell
- Feels the need to “keep family together”
- Gains special status because of “special” relationship with abusive parent
- Isolated from peers
- Rejected by non-offending parent
- Described as being “pseudo-mature” by family members

**FAMILY**

- Isolated socially from the community as a whole
- Tends to be larger than most families
- Moralistic code dictates that needs be met within the family
- Daughter assumes mother role
- Fear of family breakdown pervades; encourages family enmeshment
- External stressors present: overcrowding, recent loss of income, poverty

**SIBLINGS**

- Envious of “special relationship” with parent
- Angry at victim
- Often aware of incestuous relationship but afraid to tell
- Feelings of being rejected
- Identification with the aggressor
- Tends to acquire modeled behaviors of same-sex parent
- Premature sexual stimulation
- Sometimes involved in a progression: older child escapes abuse by forcing substitution of younger sibling

**MARITAL DYNAMICS**

- Unequal power balance
- Traditional, stereotypical roles
- Lack of mutual respect
- Impaired sexual relationship
- Emotionally distant from one another
- No mechanism to work out problems
- Wife extremely dependent on husband, both emotionally and financially