

Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
Wellness Program
Statement of Understanding

The following Mental Health/Wellness Interview with Dr. Carolyn Edwards Basiliere, the present VT-ICAC contracted mental health professional, is designed to help you assess your state of wellness and mental health given the work you are doing as a member of the VT-Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. It is not meant to be counseling or psychotherapy, but an assessment for your own assistance and benefit.

The following statements, taken from the VT-ICAC Protocol (see VT-ICAC Protocol Document) make clear the expectations and intention regarding this interview. The protocol:

1. *Requires* VT-ICAC members exposed to the “above-referenced materials” (*i.e., child exploitation and sexual abuse text and imagery*) to meet with the contracted VT-ICAC Mental Health Professional (*Dr. Carolyn Edwards Basiliere*) two (2) times per year as a part of their duties. Meetings will include general mental health assessment, resiliency assessment (e.g. work-life balance, social support, life style factors) and review of job-related stressors. The intent of these meetings is not to single out employees who are experiencing difficulties resulting from their work with the ICAC, but to provide a framework of support.
2. *Makes available* to the personnel the services of a VT-ICAC contracted Mental Health Professional for mental health assessment and, when needed, referral to an outside licensed mental health professional. This mental health service is provided confidentially and without fear of reprisals. Sessions may be open to participation from a supportive adult family member (upon confidentiality permission by task force member) if the employee feels that this would be helpful. (*This will be available as requested during for the subsequent interviews.*)
3. *Makes available* to task force members, *follow-up mental health (MH) assistance* provided by the VT-ICAC mental health professional, after they leave the task force for any reason, including moving out of police work or out of the area. The availability of this assistance will be explicitly communicated during the exit interview.
4. This program (*i.e., interview with the VT-ICAC mental health professional*) should not be construed as a “fitness for duty” or an “employee assistance program” (*interview*). It is a *wellness program (interview)* put in place to *educate* ICAC task-force members in order *to prevent* mental health difficulties from arising from exposure to materials necessarily viewed in the normal performance of their jobs, and *to identify and address* issues when they do arise.

Confidentiality:

The only record released from this interview will be *the fact that you were present* and therefore met the VT-ICAC task force member attendance requirement (i.e., one meeting every six months).

All content, information and record of this wellness/mental health interview will maintain strictly confidential. Information will only be shared by your expressed desire and written permission.

The ONLY exception is in a case where information is required by law in order to keep people safe:

- 1) In the case where child, vulnerable adult and/or elder abuse is revealed to me;
- 2) Where you voice or demonstrate to me that there is immediate threat of harm by you, to yourself or others; and
- 3) In the very rare case of a court order.

I have read and have had a chance to inquire about this Statement of Understanding

_____	_____	_____
VT ICAC Member Name	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
VT ICAC MHP Name	Signature	Date