

The Right to Be Heard

Making the process of investigation and testimony of people with complex communication needs accessible, using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

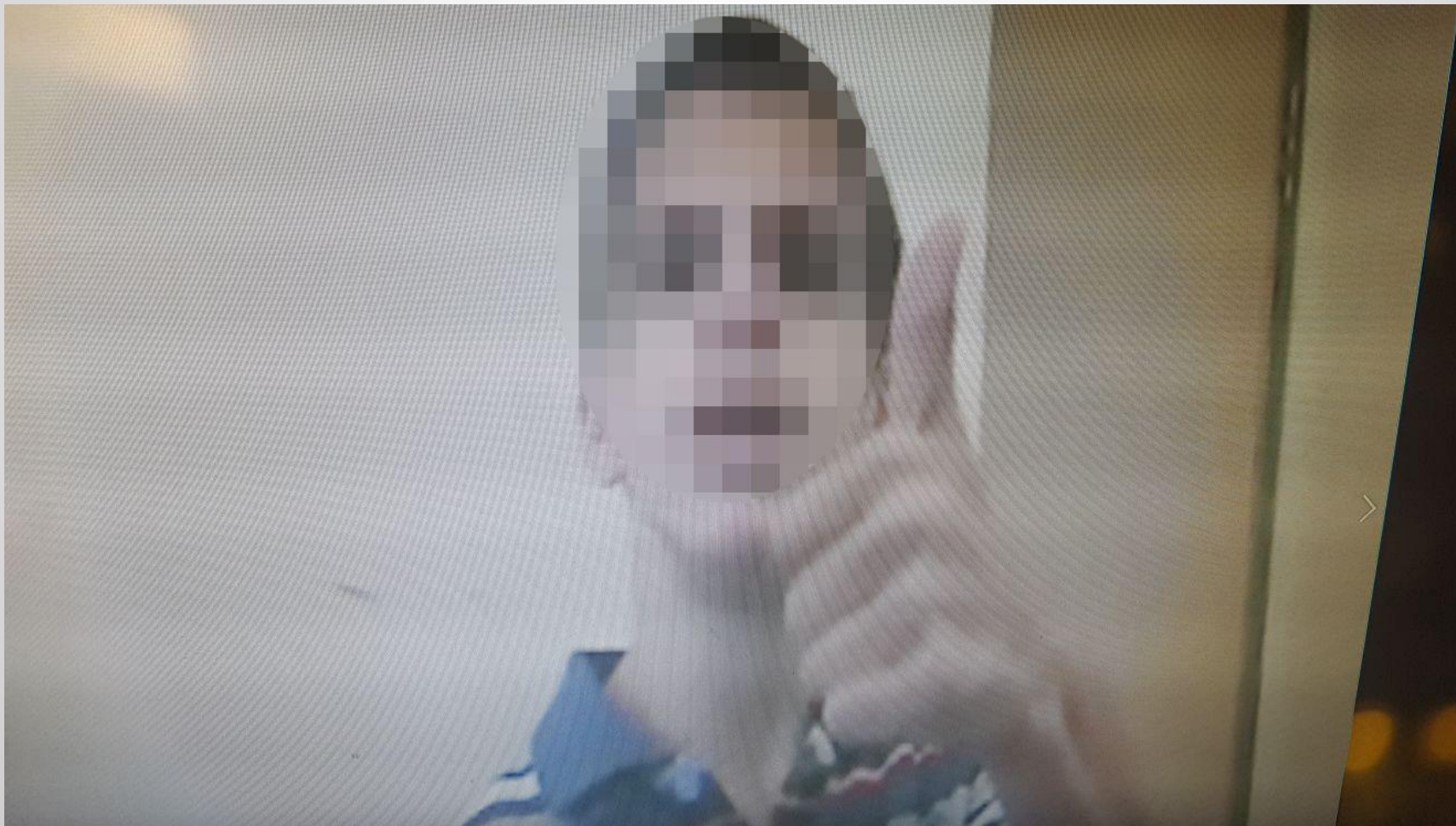
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Israel

Access to Justice



G'S STORY



The organizations

Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services

JDC-Ashalim

The Haruv Institute

Together with-

State Attorney within the Ministry of Law

Ministry of Education

National Insurance Institute

State Police Department

Issaac Israel

The Maurice and Vivienne Wohl Foundation

Partnership

**Government
& non-profit**

Assimilation

The Law for Investigation and Testimony (Adjusted for People with Disabilities), 2005

- For people with
 - (1) Cognitive developmental disability
 - (2) Another cognitive disability
 - (3) Pervasive developmental disability, including autism
- Special investigator
- Using alternative or augmentative communication
 - includes computer-based aids, communication boards, pictures, symbols, letters and words
 - can also include the assistance of a person

The service

A complaint is submitted to the police.

A special investigator collects relevant information and determines the most fitting method to be used to conduct the investigation.

The SLP then gathers information regarding the person and their communication abilities.

The preparations for the investigation are arranged - formulating questions, adjusting the communication board according to the individual's abilities/needs

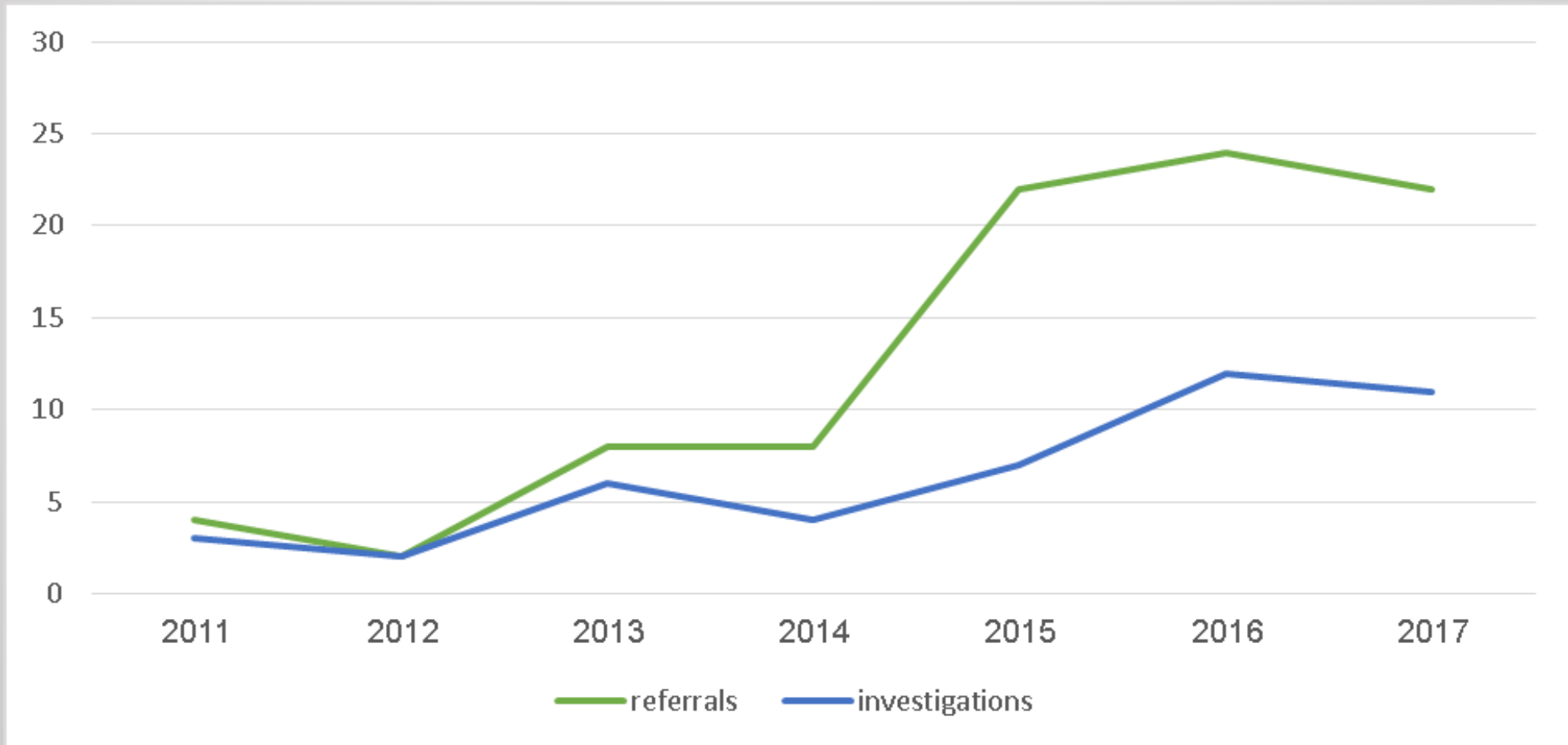
The investigation is conducted.

The special investigator recommends adjustments/accommodations for the court testimony

The pilot program

- writing manuals
- Conducting trainings for special investigators and speech language pathologists
- Developing AAC kits for investigations and purchasing relevant technological equipment (computers, iPads)
- Raising awareness - professionals, parents
- Providing professionals using AAC with sexual education courses
- Conducting research

How many?



Impact (Hershkovits ,2016)

- In 26/30 investigations, **significant information** was discovered
- In 25/30 investigations, an **accusation** was achieved
- Investigations using AAC attained less details compared to investigations involving people with other disabilities

Impact (Rozov- Hindi, 2016)

- Promoting the values of justice
- Increasing access to justice
- Revealing the truth, stopping the abuse and offering therapy
- Increasing personal safety and confidence of people with disabilities and their families
- Developing new professions
- Raising awareness of healthy sexual behavior within the education system

14 impacts

Financing

Development

Developing Trainings

Working with services that interface

Raising awareness

Cameras

AAC kits

345,695\$ for 4 years

On-going service

SLP

Longer investigations

Cameras

Trainings

28,000\$ per year

The next steps

- Point person
- SLP
- Knowledge and training
- Testimony
- Access to AAC

