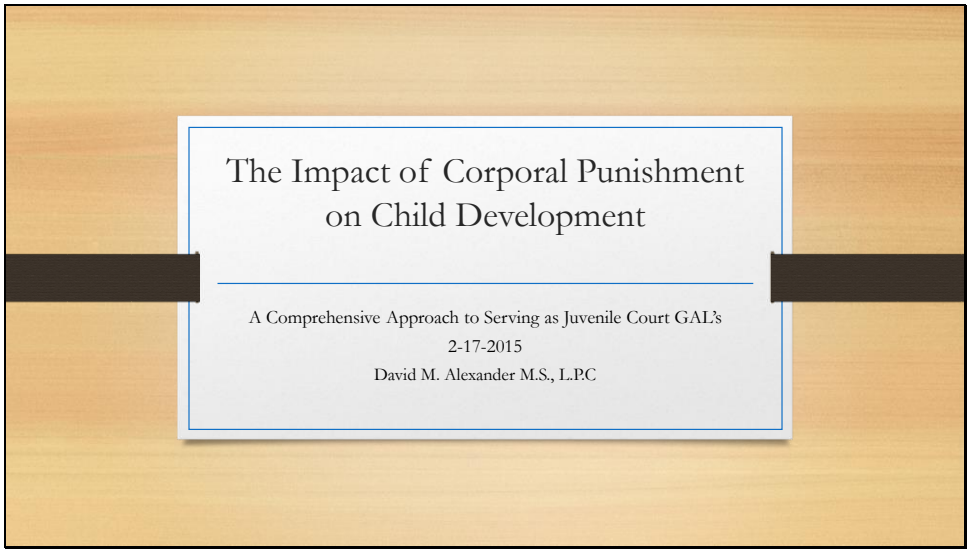
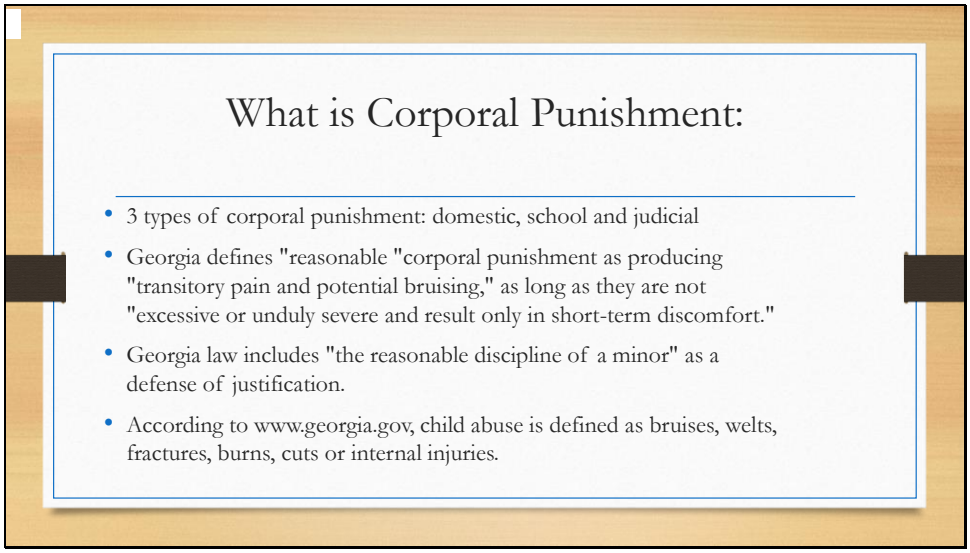
Slide 1


The Impact of Corporal Punishment on Child Development
A Comprehensive Approach to Serving as Juvenile Court GAL's
2-17-2015
David M. Alexander M.S., L.P.C

Slide 2


What is Corporal Punishment:
3 types of corporal punishment: domestic, school and judicial
Georgia defines "reasonable "corporal punishment as producing "transitory pain and potential bruising," as long as they are not "excessive or unduly severe and result only in short-term discomfort."
Georgia law includes "the reasonable discipline of a minor" as a defense of justification.
According to www.georgia.gov, child abuse is defined as bruises, welts, fractures, burns, cuts or internal injuries.

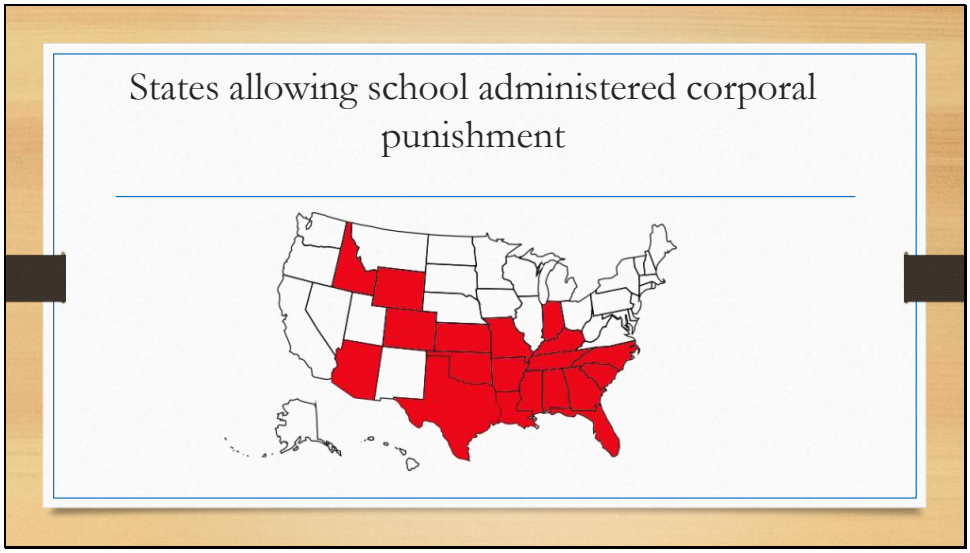
Slide 3

Domestic corporal punishment
Within the family.
Is lawful in all 50 of the United States.
Administered by parents or guardians.
State laws confirm the right of parents to inflict physical punishment on their children and legal provisions against violence and abuse are not interpreted as prohibiting all corporal punishment in childrearing.
Sweden, in 1979, was the first to make it illegal to strike a child as a form of discipline. Now, 31 countries ban all corporal punishment.

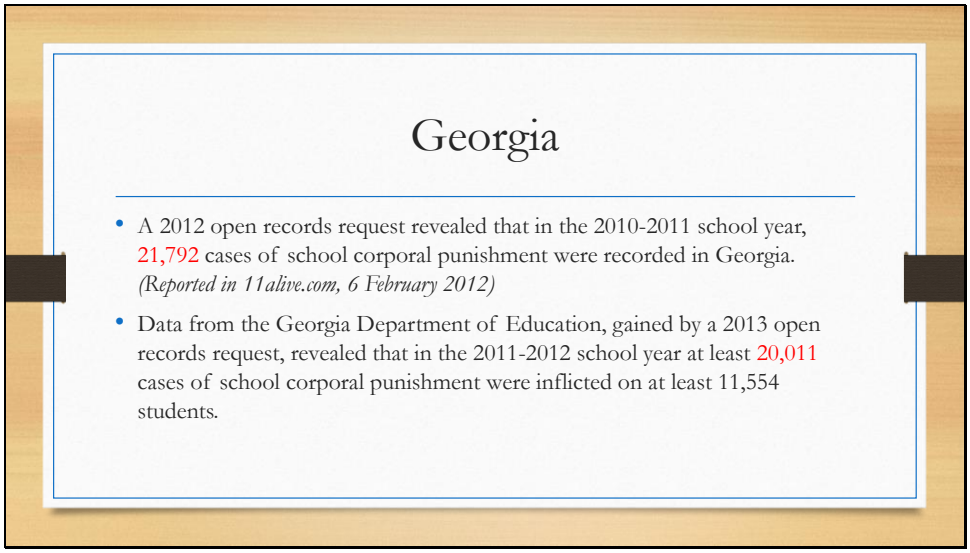
Slide 4

School corporal punishment
Within schools.
By teachers or school administrators.
31 states have banned corporal punishment, most recently in Ohio in 2009 and New Mexico in 2011.
Outlawed in Canada, Kenya, Japan, South Africa, New Zealand, and nearly all of Europe.

Slide 5


States allowing school administered corporal punishment

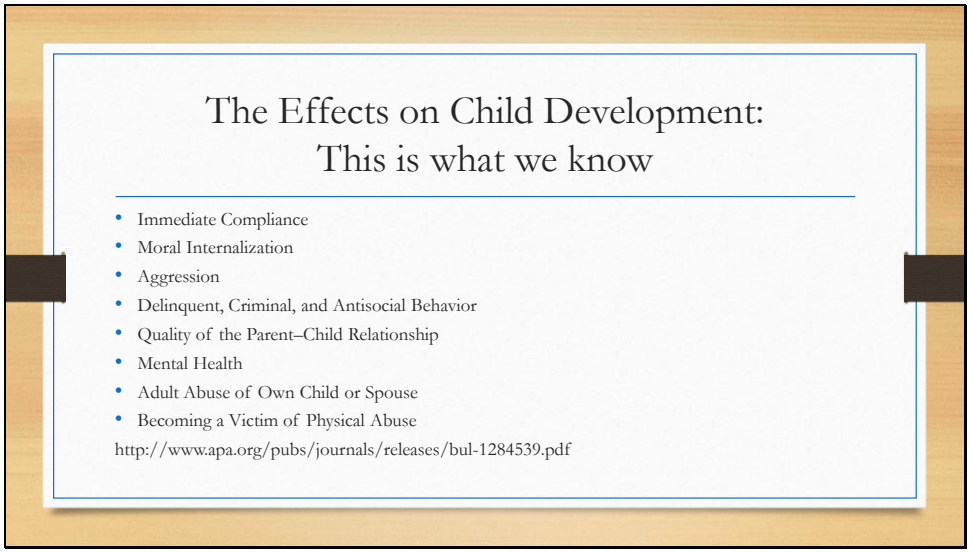
Slide 6


Georgia
A 2012 open records request revealed that in the 2010-2011 school year, 21,792 cases of school corporal punishment were recorded in Georgia. (Reported in 11alive.com, 6 February 2012)
Data from the Georgia Department of Education, gained by a 2013 open records request, revealed that in the 2011-2012 school year at least 20,011 cases of school corporal punishment were inflicted on at least 11,554 students.

Slide 7

Judicial corporal punishment
As part of a criminal sentence ordered by a court of law.
33 Countries including the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, northern Nigeria, Republic of Singapore, Sudan and Yemen, employ judicial whipping or caning for a range of offences.

Slide 8


The Effects on Child Development:
This is what we know
Immediate Compliance
Moral Internalization
Aggression
Delinquent, Criminal, and Antisocial Behavior
Quality of the Parent–Child Relationship
Mental Health
Adult Abuse of Own Child or Spouse
Becoming a Victim of Physical Abuse
http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/bul-1284539.pdf

Slide 9

Thoughts for GAL's

- The difference in the effectiveness in corporal punishment may be found in whether or not it is perceived to be an expression of true caring and concern for guidance or an expression of anger with intent to injure.
- Elizabeth Gershoff, PhD wrote the Report on Physical Punishment in the United States: *What Research Tells Us About Its Effects on Children*. The report recommends that parents and caregivers make every effort to avoid physical punishment and calls for the banning of physical discipline in all U.S. schools. The report has been endorsed by dozens of organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association and Psychologists for Social Responsibility.

Slide 10

When you are asked about spanking, what do you say?

"Researchers have also found that children who are spanked show higher rates of aggression and delinquency in childhood than those who were not spanked. As adults, they are more prone to depression, feelings of alienation, use of violence toward a spouse, and lower economic and professional achievement. None of this is what we want for our children."

Alvin Poussaint, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School