

The 1915 case of *People of the State of New York v. Harry Newman* raised a topic that continues to be debated by psychologists: child credibility on the witness stand. The transcript of the trial of Harry Newman for the rape of six-year-old Beatrice Miller by Mr. Newman highlights the necessity of a complete evaluation of child credibility and competency. This issue remains relevant today. The ongoing concern about child witnesses involves the desire to preserve the innocence of young children while also protecting them from exploitation and victimization. Scholarly research on this subject takes into account both the arguments for the protection of children as well as the lack of clear standards in determining whether a child victim can be considered a credible witness. While child credibility is based on the judge's discretion, age can be considered to be a driving factor in many decisions. Credibility is often connected to competency, as a child's inability to understand the seriousness of a situation can be considered to hinder the reliability of their testimony. When considering child credibility, research has shown the overall importance of rigorous assessment. While credibility and competency may be considered the focal point, evaluation emphasizes that a child should be placed on the witness stand only when absolutely necessary, as the testimony itself may act as a stressor, given the victim's fragility and the traumatic circumstances of the case.