



## THE INVESTIGATOR

### Slender Man, Momo, and the Blue Whale Challenge



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Since 2000 BCSI has performed hundreds of successful investigations. Our integrated team of investigators and support services ensure that the investigations are conducted in a timely fashion with leading edge techniques.

BCSI is considered the platinum standard of the industry based on the quality and the wide spectrum of its services as well as the expertise of the investigators.

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Please contact our offices at **604-922-6572** or by email at [info@picanada.ca](mailto:info@picanada.ca), we would be happy to speak with you.



According to an [ABC News article](#), on May 21, 2014, two 12-year-old girls in Wisconsin lured their friend into the woods and stabbed her 19 times. The girls reportedly claimed that they wished to commit a murder as a first step to becoming proxies for what they called "Slender Man," a fictional character created online for a Photoshop competition. The girls were convinced due to online folklore attached to the image that their families would be killed if they didn't follow through with the attempted murder. The image of "Slender Man" spread through social media and online sites like wild fire and eventually was even made into a movie. Fast forward to present day, social media platforms and news outlets are bombarded with the image of a woman with enormous eyes and a giant, beak-like mouth referred to as "Momo", originally made as a sculpture. The image of the sculpture was posted on [social media](#) and eventually went viral just like "Slender Man".

There have been reports of online trolls editing kid-friendly videos on popular [social media platforms](#) to include images of Momo, as well as instructions encouraging them to self-harm, a similar premise to the Blue Whale Challenge that started in Russia back in 2016. There was a grain of truth to both reports as the image of Momo was spotted by parents in some of their children's online videos and there had been a rash of teen suicides in Russia during that time. In regard to the "challenge" component of Blue Whale and Momo which urges the participants to hurt themselves, there is little proof it actually exists, although an argument can be made that the panic produced by the idea of them is just as dangerous. The viral nature of the haunting images and bombarding news reports of online predators targeting innocent children perpetuate a fear in parents of the unknown, spread the idea of self-harm in children, all while sparking dangerous ideas in the minds of online trolls.

If your child has been influenced by a viral challenge or you fear they will be, we can help. Contact us at 605-922-6572 or visit our website at [www.picanada.ca](http://www.picanada.ca).



