



Classroom

Conducting Child Abuse Investigations

📅 December 1-5, 2025 | 📍 Sioux Falls, SD

Gather up-to-date information for the investigation and prosecution of all types of child abuse cases utilizing a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach. Learn about medical evidence, interviewing child victims/witnesses and adult suspects/witnesses, along with legal issues involved in the investigation and prosecution of child physical and sexual abuse cases. Discuss trends in offenders' use of technology, the use of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), and sextortion. Learn law enforcement investigative techniques that capitalize on new technology.

No Fee

About

Training Schedule: 4.5 day in-person training

December 1 | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

December 2 | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

December 3 | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

December 4 | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

December 5 | 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

For information concerning continuing education units, please view our [policies](#) page.

What's In It For You

Upon completion of this training, you will be able to:

- Describe the type of injuries a child may sustain and those that may or may not be as a result of abuse
- Define child physical and child sexual abuse
- Define characteristics of victims and offenders of child abuse
- Describe preferred practices for interviewing minor victims and offending suspects
- Describe legal considerations for investigating and prosecuting child physical and child sexual abuse cases

Is This Training For You?

- Law Enforcement
- Prosecutors
- Social Workers
- Tribes/Tribal Partners

About the Venue

Sioux Falls Public Safety Campus
4300 East 60th Street North

Lodging Options

More information, including group discount code and training room, will be provided to approved attendees in their approval email.

The Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance Program (MEC Training and TA) through funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, is able to provide lodging assistance to a limited number of non-federal attendees.

This assistance is based on need and is not guaranteed to every applicant. Lodging assistance will cover the cost of room and tax for the nights of November 30 - December 4, 2025. Class ends at 12:00pm on Friday, December 5, 2025. Lodging arrangements for those who are approved for lodging assistance will be made by MEC Training and TA. Regardless of lodging assistance status, all attendees will be responsible for their own travel, food, parking and ancillary expenses associated with attending this training. If you would like to apply for lodging assistance, please click [HERE](#).

Tuition/instructional costs, as well as course materials, are provided by the Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance Program. For in-person training, attendees are responsible for making and funding their costs of attendance, including but not limited to lodging, travel, meals, incidentals, etc.

Contact Information

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Partners



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Conducting Child Abuse Investigations

December 1-5, 2025 | Sioux Falls, SD

December 1, 2025

Time Session

8:30 AM -9:15 AM

Welcome and Objectives

9:15 AM -12:00 PM

Medical Diagnosis of Physical and Sexual Abuse of Children

Topics: Focus on non-accidental injuries sustained by children. | Emphasize techniques used by investigators in assessment, investigation and reconstruction of fractures and soft tissue injuries. | Identify and demonstrate various weapons used by offenders. | Address circumstances and evaluation of children reported as victims or exhibiting signs and symptoms of sexual abuse.

12:00 PM -1:00 PM

Lunch (on your own)

1:00 PM -4:30 PM

Medical Diagnosis of Physical and Sexual Abuse of Children (continued)

December 2, 2025

Time Session

8:30 AM -12:00 PM

Perpetrator Behaviors and Victim Dynamics

Topics: Examine behavioral differences in physical abuse, domestic violence and child sexual abuse offenders. | Discuss power and control wheel and cycle of violence. | Discuss impact of relationship in child sexual abuse and exploitation cases, including familial, custodial, statutory cases and serial offenders. | Relate grooming and manipulation behaviors to victim dynamics, including, but not limited to: delayed disclosures, recantations, and physical evidence collection (or lack thereof).

12:00 PM -1:00 PM

Lunch (on your own)

1:00 PM -3:00 PM

Perpetrator Behaviors and Victim Dynamics (continued)

3:00 PM -4:30 PM

Investigative Case Flow and the MDT Response

Topics: Focus on roles and responsibilities of each member of the MDT. | Discuss response times and investigative activities of law enforcement and child protective services. | Highlight MDT coordination and communication.

December 3, 2025**Time
Session**

8:30 AM -12:00 PM

Understanding Witness Capacity and Interview Approaches

Topics: Discuss interview strategies for non-offending caregivers and other witnesses in child abuse cases. | Provide investigative/assessment questions to assist teams in gathering comprehensive information. | Focus on gathering accurate information from children from first responder contacts throughout investigation. | Discuss preparing families for forensic interviews, disclosures, interviews versus interrogation, question types, child development, concrete and abstract concepts, and memory and suggestibility issues.

12:00 PM -1:00 PM

Lunch (on your own)

1:00 PM -4:30 PM

Understanding Witness Capacity and Interview Approaches (continued)**December 4, 2025****Time
Session**

8:30 AM -12:00 PM

Investigative Strategies

Topics: Focus on interviewing suspects including: types of suspect statements, interview locations, custody versus non-custody situations, timelines for interviews and the art of interrogation. | Establish the mechanism of injury and determining exclusive custody/access to the child. | Provide interview questions to assist both law enforcement and child protection in their assessments of different types of alleged abuse and exploitation. | Discuss the role technology plays in commission of sexual abuse crimes, including: child pornography, social media evidence, chat (including gaming) evidence, cellphones, geolocation, search warrants/preservation orders, and available resources to assist with the investigation. | Discuss use of technology by law enforcement and child protective services in investigations.

12:00 PM -1:00 PM

Lunch (on your own)

1:00 PM -4:30 PM

Investigative Strategies (continued)**December 5, 2025****Time
Session**

8:30 AM -11:15 AM

Legal Issues and Considerations in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases

Topics: Discuss key issues in working together as a multidisciplinary team in preparing a case for trial then effectively presenting the case before a judge or jury. | Address common investigative techniques that should be considered in every child abuse case as they relate to court. | Discuss preparing the team for court and preparing children and other lay witnesses for testimony. | Discuss the use of experts at trial and common defenses raised in child abuse cases as well as arguments to dispel these defenses. | Discuss common legal issues in child abuse cases, including the impact of the "Crawford Decision", 404B evidence, hearsay exceptions, pretrial motions for the State to consider filing, and how to improve the team after trial.

11:15 AM -12:00 PM

Closing – Evaluations
