

# **Together We Protect: Training for Stronger Teams, Safer Kids**

August 20-21, 2025

## **Course Description and Learning Objectives**

### **Course 1: The Children Are NOT Okay: Impact and Prevention of Domestic Violence**

#### **Course Description**

Domestic violence (DV) is pervasive in our communities – with 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experiencing abuse at the hands of a partner during their lifetime. Children are not immune or shielded from the violence. Not only do millions of children witness the abuse of their caregiver, but many experience child abuse themselves. This session will discuss the prevalence of DV, the intersection of DV and child maltreatment, and how these behaviors permeate the day-to-day climate of the home, leading to the cycle of abuse being handed down from generation to generation. This session will discuss identification of harm, strategies for prevention, skill building, and resiliency, as well as strategies to support caregivers and their children.

#### **Learning Objectives**

1. Understand the links between domestic violence and child maltreatment.
2. Identify behaviors that may result from witnessing violence in the home.
3. Learn strategies for identifying harm and building skills and resiliency to lessen or prevent future harm.

### **Course 2: Working with Justice-Impacted and System-Involved Youth in Child Abuse Investigations**

#### **Course Description**

All alleged child victims should be entitled to a multidisciplinary (MDT) process and forensic interview that is aligned with best practice, research-based, and developmentally and culturally appropriate. Some youth served by the MDT may be currently or historically impacted by or involved in the criminal justice system, which will shape what they need from the process. This training will look at considerations for serving justice impacted youth, including currently or formerly incarcerated youth, and/or youth concurrently or previously accused of crimes or misconduct.

#### **Learning Objectives**

1. Discuss considerations for the MDT process when working with youth that are currently or formerly incarcerated, and/or are concurrently or previously accused of crimes or misconduct.
2. Prepare our team and process for working with justice impacted youth.

3. Identify and address potential systemic biases that target justice impacted youth.

### **Course 3: When the Suspect is a Child: MDT Response to Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors**

#### Course Description

The tragedy of youth sexually abusing other children is frequently encountered by prosecutors and forensic interviewers, yet it poses significant and persistent challenges. This workshop provides pertinent strategies and research for the effective, appropriate intervention and prosecution of juvenile offenders.

#### Learning Objectives

1. Gain an understanding of the unique techniques when interviewing adolescents and best practices in the field of forensic interviewing.
2. Describe investigative and prosecutorial best practices in the context of youth with problematic sexual behavior.
3. Apply appropriate intervention strategies to a spectrum of sexual behavior by youth.

### **Course 4: Tech-Facilitated Crimes and the Forensic Interview**

#### Course Description

This workshop will explore the effective use of the forensic interview process when responding to technology facilitated crimes against children. In addition to building awareness about the current state of the technological landscape, this workshop will address misconceptions about the nature and prevalence of technology-facilitated child abuse. This workshop will equip forensic interviewers and investigative MDTs with tools, skills and considerations to better their interview process preparation, increase the efficacy of the forensic interview and improve judicial outcomes.

#### Learning Objectives

1. Provide an overview of the dynamics involved in technology-facilitated child abuse.
2. Equip teams with a structure for pre-interview preparation.
3. Provide interviewers with sample language, tools, techniques and suggestions for conducting forensic interviews in cases involving technology-facilitated child abuse.

### **Course 5: Considering Grooming and Manipulation in the Forensic Interview**

## Course Description

Grooming behaviors are estimated to be present in nearly half of all child sexual abuse cases. It is important for child abuse professionals to recognize manipulative patterns and behaviors that offenders employ to groom their victims for compliance with abuse and non-disclosure, so interventions can be made as early as possible. This training will provide professionals with information on what grooming is, how to recognize grooming behaviors, stages of grooming, a look at legislation regarding grooming across the US, and considerations and techniques for exploring dynamics of grooming and manipulation in the forensic interview.

## Learning Objectives

1. Increase child abuse professional's understanding of stages of sexual grooming, and common manipulative behaviors in each stage.
2. Debunk common misconceptions about grooming.
3. Improve participant's ability to communicate about nuanced dynamics in cases of sexual abuse involving grooming.
4. Provide techniques and sample language for exploring grooming behaviors the forensic interview.

## **Course 6: Corroborating Evidence: For Prosecutors, Law Enforcement, Forensic Interviewers, and other MDT members**

### Course Description

Initial child abuse disclosures and children's statements ascertained through the forensic interview are only one part of an entire investigation. Increasing the corroboratively relevant details in the interview will assist in other parts of the child abuse investigation. This training stresses the importance of corroboration and offers forensic interview techniques to increase forensically relevant corroborative details in the interview through interview considerations, sample language and guidance for the multidisciplinary team approach.

### Learning Objectives

1. Increase relevant corroborative details in the forensic interview.
2. Identify the multidisciplinary team's role in supporting the forensic interviewer to increase the relevant corroborative details in the forensic interview.
3. Practice implementing the multidisciplinary team and forensic interview approach to promoting corroboration through scenario exercises.