Interviewing in Child Maltreatment Cases

Who should attend: DSS Child Welfare Investigations staff

Overview: This two-day course will provide techniques and strategies for interviewing adults including parents, witnesses, and nonoffending caregivers. Participants will also learn the basics of minimal facts interviewing of child victims, siblings, or witnesses with emphasis on reducing further trauma and engaging a child on their developmental level. This training stresses the importance of working with a Children's Advocacy Center to obtain a full forensic interview and is designed to complement the ChildFirst® SC forensic interviewing training program. Trainees will learn the purpose and techniques of investigative interviews, goals of the interview in relation to different forms of maltreatment, and proper and accurate documentation.

The second day of the training will utilize case scenarios, providing participants with the opportunity to apply the training information and develop their interviewing skills. Participants will identify who needs to be interviewed, focus on obtaining essential information through an interview process, and then accurately and comprehensively document the information obtained. Participants will engage in mock interviews of actors playing the roles of parents and caregivers. The scenarios and practice interviews will be designed to address suspected physical abuse and sexual abuse allegations. This training is limited to ten participants. Additionally, overnight travel will not be provided so participants must live within traveling distance.

Dates and Times:
June 20-21, 2022 (9:00 am - 4:45 pm)
June 22-23, 2022 (9:00 am - 4:45 pm)

Location: Children’s Law Center Training Center, 1114 Pickens Street, Columbia, SC 29208

Course Prerequisites: Attendees must have completed Child Physical Abuse and Neglect Investigations: The Basics (Virtual) and Child Sexual Abuse Investigations: The Basics (Virtual) conducted by the Children’s Law Center.

Fee: There is no charge for this training.

Continuing Education Credits: This training is approved for 11.25 general contact hours.

For more information: Contact Kelley Kilgore at kilgore@email.sc.edu or 803-576-7235.

To register: Go to the Children’s Law Center registration system: https://sc.edu/clc/public/index.php. (DSS staff must first register on the SCEIS and then on the CLC registration system.)