

Investigative Processes in Family-Centered Child Protective Services

Agenda and Objectives

Section I: Welcome and Introductions

Objectives:

- Trainees will get to know one another and the trainer.
- Trainees will identify their learning needs specific to this module.

Section II: What are Investigative Processes?

Objectives:

- Trainees will understand the unique purpose and goals of investigations and how they are incorporated into assessment.
- Trainees will understand the processes of a child protective services investigation and the activities that are involved.
- Trainees will understand the specific nature of forensic interviewing.
 - A. Defining Investigations
 - B. Overview of activities completed during an agency's first contacts with a:
 - a. Referred Family

Section III: Principles of Investigative Processes

Objectives:

- Trainees will understand principles common to all investigative processes.
- Trainees will understand the roles and responsibilities of child welfare workers and community partners in the investigation of maltreatment.
- Trainees will understand their role in collaborating with these entities.
- Trainees will be aware of the formalized collaborative agreements, including the role and purpose of multi-disciplinary teams and child advocacy centers.

- Trainees will understand how to conduct investigations that are consistent with parent’s Fourth Amendment rights to be free from unreasonable search and seizure and 14th Amendment rights to due process.
 - A. Engaging the Family
 - B. Respecting Parental Rights
 - C. Collaborating During Investigations
 - D. Gathering Complete, Detailed Information

Section IV: Planning the Investigation

Objectives:

- Trainees will learn what to consider when planning an investigation, including what information is needed, who should be present, where the interview should take place, how to maintain child safety, how to plan for worker safety, which community team members to involve and how to address cultural issues.
- Trainees will understand the importance of documenting interviews.
 - A. Planning the Davis Investigation
 - B. Documenting Investigations

Section V: Conducting the Investigation

Objectives:

- Trainees will learn how to conduct investigations in a legally-defensible manner.
- Trainees will be aware of the unique features of investigations for physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.
- Trainees will learn the purposes and issues to be considered during interviews with the alleged child victim, siblings, the non-offending parent, the alleged perpetrator, and collateral sources.
 - A. Unique Features of Specific Types of Investigations
 - B. Special Considerations when Conducting Investigative Interviews
 - C. Drawing Conclusions
 - D. Closing the Investigation

Section VI: Action Planning and Close of the Workshop

Objective:

- Trainees will identify skill areas needing further practice and support.