



Critical Issues in the Investigation and Prosecution of Child Homicide and Serious Physical Abuse Cases

By Brian Holmgren

June 15, 2017
SC Bar Conference Center
1501 Park Street Columbia, SC 29202

Overview: This training will focus on the requirements for successful investigation and prosecution of child homicide and serious physical abuse cases, specifically those resulting from abusive head trauma including shaken baby syndrome, blunt force abdominal trauma, burns and neglect. The presentation will highlight the types of defenses frequently encountered in these cases, and how use of medical research findings and key investigative strategies can overcome them. Emphasis will be placed on crime scene and background investigation techniques to discover physical evidence, and evidence of prior offenses. Interview strategies for suspects and witnesses will highlight the need to develop false histories for the child's injuries, motive evidence, and time lines for determining when the abuse occurred relative to the various caretakers who may have had access to the child. Particular emphasis will be placed on the use of video demonstrations by suspects of the mechanism producing the injuries and the forces involved, as well as crime scene reconstruction as foundation for expert medical opinion testimony. Discussion will also focus on the use of medical experts to establish the mechanism of injury, the legal parameters for expert testimony, and methods for impeaching defense experts in these cases. Discussion will also focus on understanding the parameters for medical diagnosis of Battered Child Syndrome and the investigative concerns surrounding this medical diagnosis. Issues involving appropriate charging decisions will be discussed. Various aspects of the trial process will also be addressed with emphasis placed on jury selection, theme development, opening statements and closing argument, the presentation of lay and expert witnesses, and cross-examination of defendants and defense experts. A variety of audiovisual aides will be used throughout the presentation as well as specific examples from actual cases.

Presenter: Brian Holmgren joins us from Nashville, TN as consultant from the Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center. Mr. Holmgren served as an Assistant District Attorney General in Tennessee for 15 years where he was the team leader of the child abuse unit. Previously he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Kenosha County, Wisconsin for ten years and directed their sensitive crimes unit. As a prosecutor, Mr. Holmgren has tried more than 300 jury trials and has handled hundreds of child abuse cases. While a Senior Attorney with the American Prosecutors Research Institute's National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, he was a frequent lecturer on child abuse topics at statewide and national conferences and acted as a consultant to the media, law enforcement, prosecutors and child abuse professionals throughout the country concerning issues of child maltreatment and sexually violent predators. Mr. Holmgren is the author of numerous articles and book chapters and is a contributing author and editor to the third edition of the National Center's manual on the Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse Cases.



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Who should attend: Law Enforcement and Prosecutors only

Continuing Education Credits: This training is expected to be approved by the following: SC Criminal Justice Academy for 6 hours of continuing education credits for law enforcement officers; SC Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization for 6 hours of CLE credits; 6 hours of continuing education credits for Victim Service Providers.

Sign-in and coffee: 8:30 am – 9:00 am

Course: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

There is no charge for this training. Lunch will NOT be provided

To register, please click on the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/critical-issues-in-the-investigation-and-prosecution-of-child-homicide-and-serious-physical-abuse-tickets-34149578308>