

ChildFirst South Carolina

Individual Registration, 2018

Overview. *ChildFirst South Carolina* is an intensive five day course in which students learn the necessary skills to conduct an investigative interview—also known as a forensic interview—of a suspected child abuse victim. This interactive course combines lectures and demonstrations supplemented with homework assignments and a written examination at the end of the course. Participants also must conduct a 30-minute interview of a professional actor playing the role of a sexually abused child after which the interviewer is critiqued by a professional forensic interviewer and a group of fellow students.

Requirements. If a team from your county has attended a previous session of *ChildFirst South Carolina* or *Finding Words South Carolina* and you work as part of that team, you may register as an individual. However, you must meet the basic requirements of any team member:

- (1) You must work in a job in which you conduct forensic interviews of suspected child abuse victims or you defend forensic interviews in court. Most frequently, these professionals are law enforcement officers, DSS caseworkers, and solicitors. An employee of a rape crisis center, children's advocacy center, or comparable organization may attend as part of a team if that organization has a formal agreement with a county to conduct forensic interviews for law enforcement in that county.
- (2) You must commit to completing all homework assignments and attending every session. Anyone who misses a session, does not complete homework, or fails the examination will not be awarded a certificate of course completion.

Cost. Tuition is \$350.00 per person. *Payment is due with registration.* Participants are responsible for their own lodging and per diem arrangements and expenses. **Checks should be made out to University of South Carolina.**

2018 Location. The course will be conducted at the Metropolitan CAC at 3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, SC 29204.

DSS Employees. The Children's Law Center has a contract with the State Office of the Department of Social Services that pays registration fees, lodging, and per diem for DSS participants. Therefore, individual DSS employees do not need to pay the registration fee. *However, DSS employees must include the County Director's signature on the registration form indicating the employee conducts forensic interviews and has received permission to attend the course.*

Registration process. The course is open to the first 18 paid registrants. If the course is filled before the Children's Law Center receives your registration and payment, you will be given the option of attending the next available course or receiving a refund of your registration fee in full.

Send completed registration forms, with payment, to:

Margaret Bodman
Children's Law Center, 1600 Hampton St., Suite 502, Columbia, SC 29208
803-765-9601 (phone) 803-771-4590 (fax)

We suggest that you email your registration form to Margaret Bodman at margaretbodman@sc.edu before you mail your registration in with the check to make sure there is still room.

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Name

Title

Agency

Mailing address– street, city, state, zip

Telephone number

Fax number

County

Email Address

Each registrant must answer the following question

Do you currently work in a job in which you conduct forensic interviews of suspected child sexual abuse victims? A forensic interview is (1) an interview conducted out-of-court for the purpose of gathering information about a suspected crime: or (2) pre-trial or in-court questioning of a child by a DSS attorney or solicitor. **Please circle yes or no to this question and sign your name below:**

YES / NO

signature required

If you do not currently conduct forensic interviews, you must attach a letter explaining when you will begin conducting forensic interviews.

Which date do you wish to attend?

ChildFirst: _____ January 29 – Feb 2 _____ April 30 – May 4 _____ July 23 - 27 _____ October 22-26

DSS attendees must verify their approval to attend with the signature of the county director:

County Director's Signature (DSS employees only)

For DSS Employees Only:

I will / will not be requesting lodging (please check one)

Room Preference: _____ Single* _____ Double (Roommate preference _____)

***I agree to pay 50% of room cost at check in**

name of preferred roommate

*****All rooms are non-smoking.**