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.
(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) If your county has not previously attended ChildFirst South Carolina (or Finding Words South Carolina), you must register for the course as a multidisciplinary team. At a minimum, a team must include a prosecutor, a law enforcement investigator, and a child protection services worker. If you have any questions about who should be on a team, contact Leslie Cantelmi at (503) 765-9530 or lesliecantelmi@sc.edu

(3) 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.

2015 Dates and Location. The course will be conducted March 9-13, 2015. Additional dates will be announced once they have been confirmed. The course is held in Columbia at the Assessment and Resource Center (the child advocacy center for Richland County).

Advanced ChildFirst. Information not available at this time.

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 15 paid registrants. A registration submitted with an incomplete team will be returned. 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:
Leslie Cantelmi
Children’s Law Center, 1600 Hampton St., Suite 502, Columbia, SC 29208
803-765-9530 (phone) 803-771-4590 (fax)
ChildFirst South Carolina Team Registration, 2015

Instructions

1. Indicate the date you wish to attend: ○ March 9-13 ○ May 18-22 ○ July 20-24 ○ October 26-30
2. Provide contact information for each team member who would like to attend the course.
3. Indicate the approximate number of forensic interviews of suspected child sexual abuse victims each team member conducts per year. A forensic interview is an interview conducted for the purpose of gathering information about a suspected crime.
4. Identify one person who will be the contact for your team: ________________________________

Please provide the following information for each team member

COUNTY OF TEAM ________________________________

Solicitor’s Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title and Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing address – street, city, state, zip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of child interviews annually: _______</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sheriff’s Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title and Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of child interviews annually: _______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Police Department (if applicable)

Name

Title and Agency

Email

Mailing address– street, city, state, zip

Telephone number

Number of child interviews annually: ________

Department of Social Services

Name

Title and Agency

Email

Mailing address– street, city, state, zip

Telephone number

Number of child interviews annually: ________

Other team members (only those who conduct forensic interviews)

Name

Title and Agency

Email

Mailing address– street, city, state, zip

Telephone number

Number of child interviews annually: ________
Other team members (only those who conduct forensic interviews)

Name

Title and Agency

Email

Mailing address—street, city, state, zip

Telephone number

Number of child interviews annually: __________

Other team members (only those who conduct forensic interviews)

Name

Title and Agency

Email

Mailing address—street, city, state, zip

Telephone number

Number of child interviews annually: __________

County Director’s Signature