

ChildFirst South Carolina

Individual Registration, 2012

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.**

2012 Dates and Location. The course will be conducted January 23-27, July 23-27, and October 22-26. The course is held in Columbia at the Assessment and Resource Center (the child advocacy center for Richland County).

Advanced ChildFirst. The 2012 advanced course will be conducted April 16-18, 2012. The advanced course will be in Columbia at a location to be determined. There is no fee to attend Advanced ChildFirst however you must have completed Basic ChildFirst in order to attend. Spaces are limited.

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 24 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:

Tom Leclair

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