

ChildFirst® South Carolina

Individual Registration, 2020

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 be a South Carolina state professional, unless otherwise approved in writing by Zero Abuse Project.
- (2) You must work in a job in which you conduct forensic interviews of suspected child abuse victims.
- (3) You may also attend if you refer children to a children's advocacy center for forensic interviews as part of a child maltreatment investigation or defend forensic interviews in court. Most frequently, these professionals are law enforcement officers, DSS attorneys, DSS caseworkers, and prosecutors. 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.
- (4) 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.

2020 Location. The course will be conducted at the Metropolitan CAC at 3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, SC 29204.

Cost. Tuition is \$350.00 per person. **After registering, you will receive an email regarding payment.** Participants are responsible for their own lodging and per diem arrangements and expenses.

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 obtain the County Director's signature on an approval form which will be emailed upon registration.*

Registration process. The course is open to the first 16 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.

To Register: Go to the Children's Law Center registration system at <http://sc.edu/clc/registration/>

If you have any questions, contact Margaret Bodman at mbodman@mailbox.sc.edu.