

ChildFirst® South Carolina **Registration 2023**

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. *Completion of this training does not result in any recognized professional “certification” to conduct forensic interviews.*

Requirements. This course is designed for investigative teams of law enforcement officers, social workers, prosecutors, child protection attorneys and forensic interviewers. 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 and your ChildFirst® state coordinator.
- 2) You must work in a job, through formal professional affiliation with a Children’s Advocacy Center, 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. Your participation in this training is focused on understanding the forensic interview process and how it fits into your comprehensive investigation.
- 4) You must commit to attending every session. Anyone who misses a session, does not complete the practical exercises, or fails the examination will not be awarded a certificate of course completion.

2023 Location. The course will be conducted at the Ernest F. Hollings National Advocacy Center, 1620 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

2023 Dates. February 13-17; May 1-5; July 10-14; October 23-27

Cost. Tuition is \$425.00 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. Attendance priority is given to DSS staff who work in investigations.* Look for the *ChildFirst® SC for DSS only* registration on the Children’s Law Center registration system.

Registration Process. The course is open to the first 22 paid registrants. If the course is filled before we receive your payment, you will be given the option of attending the next available course or receiving a refund of your registration fee in full. In the event of a cancellation within 7 days of the start of the course, any refunds will be assessed a \$50 administrative fee.

To Register: Go to the Children’s Law Center registration system at <http://sc.edu/clc/registration/>. If you have any questions, contact Daniel Ford at diford@mailbox.sc.edu.