



Northwest Illinois Criminal Justice Commission

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Mobile Team Unit #1 is funded in partnership with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board

Interviewing Children

DATE: April 15, 2025

Registration Ends: April 1, 2025

TIME: 8:00am to 5:30pm 8 Hours

LOCATION: Stewart Center, 2900 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport IL

INSTRUCTOR: Danielle Butts

Interviewing Children

PURPOSE OF COURSE: This one day, 8-hour program has been designed by an expert in the field of interviewing children for the purpose of providing student officers with additional methods and information for interviewing juveniles during criminal investigations.

COURSE OVERVIEW: This course has been designed to provide patrol officers, investigators, or juvenile officers with additional methods and information for interviewing children in criminal investigations. Interviewing children requires a special skillset.

This course will provide a framework for interviewing children who are victims or witnesses to crimes. Our instructor conducts over 125 forensic interviews of children per year.

EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON PRACTICAL EXERCISES CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT THE COURSE. THIS COURSE WILL UTILIZE CASE VIGNETTES FOR PRACTICAL APPLICATION.

Topics to be discussed include the following:

- Interview settings for children
- Child development and cognitive abilities – What should your expectations be for different age groups
- Cognitive evaluation
- Types of questions – from open-ended to leading
- Interviewing aides
- Stages of a child interview
- Establishing timelines with children
- Blocks to interviewing children – Disabilities and Mental Health issues

While issues of domestic violence to children and sexual assault of children will be discussed, it is not the intent of this course to teach those types of interview techniques specifically.

This course has been approved by ILETSB to meet the following mandates:

Lead Homicide Investigator 8 Hours
Officer and Youth Interaction 8 Hours
Procedural Justice 3 Hour
Civil Rights .5 Hours



Const/Proper use of Authority .5 Hours
Crisis Intervention .5 Hours
Human Rights .5 Hours

Partial funding provided by Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board and MTU#1's request for certification of this course has been approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

REGISTRATION:

All registrations are received on the [MTU#1 website](#). Find Registration instructions [here](#)