

ChildFirst® South Carolina

Individual Registration, 2021

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 state professional “certification” to conduct forensic interviews.*

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, 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 you 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.

2021 Location. The course will be conducted on a virtual platform OR at the Metropolitan CAC at 3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, SC 29204. Decisions about location will be made throughout the year as we assess the changing COVID-19 pandemic.

Cost. Tuition is \$350.00 per person. **After registering, you will receive an email regarding payment.** If the training is hosted in-person, 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 will be given to DSS staff who work in investigations.*

Registration Process. The course is open to the first 15 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.

To Register: Go to the Children’s Law Center registration system at <https://sc.edu/clc/public/index.php>. *If you have any questions, contact Kelley Kilgore at lkilgore@email.sc.edu.*