



# Child Physical Abuse and Neglect Investigations: The Basics

**Who should attend:** DSS staff and attorneys, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, guardians ad litem, children's advocacy center professionals, child abuse medical professionals

**Overview:** This training focuses on the basics of child physical abuse and neglect investigations with an emphasis on multidisciplinary coordination. The training will begin with a focus on understanding the prevalence of child abuse and neglect, recognizing red flags and risk factors, distinguishing between inflicted and accidental injuries, the emergency protective custody process, and interviewing. In the interviewing segment of the training, we will begin with a review of general techniques of interviewing and then broaden the discussion to include all individuals that need to be interviewed and the questions that should be asked in a comprehensive investigation. The training will also cover proper documentation and evidence collection and include a discussion of applicable definitions of abuse and neglect and criminal laws.

## Dates and Locations:

- June 26, 2026 (Dorchester County Council Chamber, Summerville, SC)
- August 12, 2026 (Children's Law Center Training Center, Columbia, SC)

**Course Times:** 8:45 am – 4:15 pm

**Fee:** There is no charge for this training.

**Continuing Education Credits:** This training has been approved for 6 general contact hours. An application for continuing education approval has been submitted to the SC Criminal Justice Academy.

**For more information:** Contact Brianna Smalls at [bdsmls@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:bdsmls@mailbox.sc.edu) or 803-576-7235.

**To register:** Go to the Children's Law Center registration system:  
<https://sc.edu/clc/public/index.php>.