Syllabus for Support Services

**Title:**

 Child Abuse Investigations – A Police Perspective

A comprehensive guideline from initial reporting to court testimony

**Length:**

Duration can be adjusted to fit the needs of the agency. Ideally2-4 hours

**Goal and Purpose**

Child Abuse cases are very time consuming and challenging. As mutual participants with a vested interest in these cases, it is crucial that we work together for the best outcome. There are many misconceptions on all sides as to the purpose of actions of the other. Attendees will be introduced to Basic Crime Scene Investigation from the initial call to the Interview Process from a Police perspective. It is the goal of the presenter that interested parties understand the priceless art of team-work. The attendee should leave with a clearer understanding of an officer’s role and responsibility and be able to find a cohesive way we can exist in mutual benefit.

Examples will be provided from the presenter/s experience and case law will be referenced. Obstacles such as false reports, medical conditions and poor witnesses will be reviewed. The difference in time-line requirements and the imperativeness of communication will be reinforced.

 Nichole Douglas is a seasoned Child Abuse Investigator with over 1400 cases investigated in her career. She has arrested over 300 perpetrators for Child Abuse and near 400 for Sex Crimes. She vested from Law Enforcement and now teaches youth. Nichole has spoken for multiple Universities and helped mentor new Officers of the force. She is passionate about these cases and can attest to her successful career to diligence and aggressive investigative habits. She is certified by the State Police in Crime Scene Investigation and Child Abuse as well as multiple other facets imperative to these investigations such as Homicide Death Investigations and Interviewing and Understanding Sexual Deviant Behavior. She has made many strong connections with Social Services and believes their contribution to be invaluable to the victim. This is unfortunately often overlooked.

**Participants:**

This lecture is recommended for the new investigative CYS agents, Child Advocacy Groups, Family Services and Domestic Shelter Employee’s and interested members of the MDIT family to include Healthcare providers.

**Topics of Discussion** **Est. Duration in Hours**

**1.The Child Abuse Report**  **1.0**

 **And Police Response**

**3. Basic Crime Scene Investigation** **1.0**

 **And Photography**

**4. Interview and Interrogation/Interaction** **1.0**

 **With Victims, Witnesses and Perps**

**5. The CAC, Medical Professionals**  **1.0**

 **MDIT, CYS**

**1. The Child Abuse Report**

 Goal: To explain to interested parties why specific cases get priority. The suggested actions of the Officer to ensure a successful investigation will be discussed. The different time frames of engagement for support services compared to the officer will be outlined.

**2.** **Basic Crime Scene Investigation and Photography**

Goal: To enhance the understanding of the importance of the first 72 hours and proper collection of evidence. Law of Search and Seizure Chain of Custody, Evidence (Photograph, Sketch Diagram, Record), Latent Prints, Hair and Fiber Collection etc.

An explanation of cause-and-effect information sharing will be highlighted.

**4. Interview and Interrogation/Interaction with Victims, Witnesses and Perps**

Goal: To introduce and explain the importance of the CAC vs. Basic information gathering. To introduce the different types of Interviews for witnesses and Suspects. Discuss the different evidence collection tools of jail calls, wiretap and Lie Detector tests. Strategies for exposing deception and what we can share with you.

**5. The CAC, Medical Professionals, MDIT and CYS**

Goal: To introduce the purpose and importance of the CAC and how it can help your case. The importance of a functional and professional relationship with Medical Professionals. The rape kit will be discussed. Multi- Disciplinary Investigative Teams, what is their purpose and is it worth attending? The love/hate relationship between Police and CYS and understanding how we can help each other.

* Interwoven within this course, or possibly if time allows at the end, a module on stress management and healthy avenues to deal with the traumatic experiences the officer will encounter, while investigating these cases, will be presented.

Nichole is also seasoned in Megan’s Law Investigations. Kindly advise if you would like this to be covered within the curriculum.