



ChildFirst®

Forensic Interview Protocol

ChildFirst® is the **forensic interview training program** of Zero Abuse Project. During the **week-long** course, students receive training on the ChildFirst® Forensic Interview Protocol, child development, corroboration, memory and suggestibility, testifying in court, legal issues, and preparing children for court. This training incorporates lecture and discussion, review of electronically recorded interviews, skill-building exercises, an interview practicum, and written exam.

ChildFirst® is a flexible forensic interviewing model that takes a **holistic approach to child abuse investigations** by exploring all forms of maltreatment and providing a safety screening for polyvictimization. ChildFirst® is the most widely utilized protocol, with 21 states and 2 countries applying the protocol.

The overarching principle of ChildFirst® is the best interest of the child. The course is immersed in **research** and follows **best practices** in the field, teaching all areas including but not limited to: episodic memory training and narrative practice, truth/lie discussions, promise, interview instructions, introducing evidence, and how to properly utilize anatomical diagrams and dolls.

This course is designed for those participants of a **multidisciplinary team**, including law enforcement officers, social workers, prosecutors, child protection attorneys, investigators and forensic interviewers.

- ChildFirst® was designed by and for the front-line child abuse professional
- Teaches students to apply the latest research to real-world situations
- Students watch videotaped child sexual abuse interviews as a means of bringing the course material to life
- Requires students to demonstrate their interviewing skills
- Models the multidisciplinary approach
- Incorporates actual forensic interviews with a child sexual abuse victim
- Encourages ongoing critiques of students' interviewing skills in order to improve technique
- Approved by the National Children's Alliance to meet accreditation standards

To attend or sponsor this training in your area, visit
www.ZeroAbuseProject.org/education-training
or call 651-714-4673