



South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol Training

This protocol details mandated procedures for a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) approach to child abuse by addressing the functions of the CAC/MDT, roles and responsibilities of each discipline, and the interaction of these disciplines during the child abuse response process. A coordinated, MDT approach facilitates efficient interagency communication and information sharing, ongoing involvement of key individuals, and support for children and families.

What is Covered

The training is in an on-line, self-paced format consisting of approximately 3.5 hours of instruction. The training consists of the modules listed below:

01. **Introduction to the South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol**
02. **The Initial Child Abuse Response for Department of Social Services (DSS) and Law Enforcement First Responders**
03. **Referral to a South Carolina Children's Advocacy Center and services provided**
04. **The Forensic Medical Exam and the SC Children's Advocacy Medical Response System**
05. **The Investigative Process, Joint Investigation (DSS and law enforcement), and Special Issues**
06. **The Guardian ad Litem and Court Appointed Special Advocate**
07. **The Court Process and Preparing the Child for the Courtroom**
08. **Resources, Revisions, and Maintenance of the Protocol**



Who Should Attend

CAC staff, MDT and other professionals who are involved in the response to child abuse. This includes law enforcement, DSS, DJJ, GAL's, CASA's, attorneys, child abuse pediatricians, forensic pathologists, therapists, and others. Participants from all agencies will learn how the CAC/MDT approach detailed in the protocol provides the benefit of a broadened knowledge base from which decisions are made through shared information, improved and timely evidence gathering. MDT interventions in a neutral, child-focused CAC setting are associated with less anxiety, fewer interviews, and more appropriate and prompt referrals for needed services. A CAC/MDT response fosters needed education, support, and treatment for children and families that may enhance their willingness to participate in the criminal justice system as effective witnesses.

More Information

Participants completing all training requirements will be able to download a certificate of completion.



Continuing Education

Up to 3.5 continuing education contact hours are available.



Registration Cost

Training is free of charge for all professionals involved with the child abuse response system in South Carolina.

For more information and registration, visit
<https://www.cac-sc.org/protocol/>