



## **Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines Training**

**5-days, Tues/Thurs & Mon-Wed-Fri  
over 2 weeks  
Virtual Platform**

Day 1: Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Day 2: Thursday, October 14, 2021

Day 3: Monday, October 18, 2021

Day 4: Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Day 5: Friday October 22, 2021

SPONSORED BY WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT

### **Description of Training**

This five-day, interactive program is designed to introduce participants to the Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines. Learners will develop forensic interview skills by increasing their knowledge of the process of disclosure, the impact of language and development, effects of trauma, and question strategies that contribute to dynamics of memories and suggestibility. Learners will also engage in practice opportunities for conducting developmentally appropriate forensic interviews of children alleged as child abuse victims or children who have witnessed abuse or violence. All content will be reflected in the concept that forensic interviews have the purpose of gathering accurate information from children about events they experience.

It is required that all attendees actively participate and complete the full 5 days of training to receive a certificate.

It is strongly encouraged that WIFIG graduates participate in the DOJ supported forensic interview mentorship pilot program sponsored by Child Advocacy Centers of Wisconsin. This program includes one-on-one mentorship, additional training opportunities, and peer review. Additional information will be provided during the 5-day training.

Due to limited space, not all applicants will be accepted, and participation may be limited to two individuals per county. This training will be conducted up to 4 times per year in a virtual format until further notice.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This training contains graphic content that includes topics such as physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and forensic interview recordings with children of various ages. Please consider not only yourself, but others who may be in the room. All information discussed related to individual interviews (videos, transcripts, etc.) is protected and confidential and cannot be shared with non-WIFIG participants.

### **Program Goal and Outcomes**

The goal of the program is to provide training in legally sound forensic interview approaches that are child-centered. As a result of the program, learners will be able to:

- Apply developmentally and culturally appropriate techniques in forensic interviews of children who are alleged as victims and/or witnesses of abuse and/or violence.
- Employ interview strategies that maximize accurate information from children and minimize the impact of the interviews on children.
- Utilize legally sound interview techniques appropriate for use in court testimony.

## **Target Audience**

The program is specifically designed for professionals whose primary role is conducting forensic interviews of children and adolescents. These professionals can include, but are not limited to, forensic interview specialists, law enforcement officers, child protective service workers, and juvenile justice personnel. Those who should apply and will be given priority registration are those who conduct regular forensic interviews and engage in peer review, as is best practice.

## **Registration Process**

Registration is online. A link is available on the Children's Justice Act web page (<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ocvs/not-crime-victim/childrens-justice-act>).

Space is limited for this training, and is not "first come, first serve." Please apply and answer all application questions as thoroughly as you can. The deadline for application is **August 20, 2021** at 11:59pm. After the application period closes, attendees will be contacted by Wisconsin DOJ with either a registration confirmation or denial. If your registration is confirmed, additional details about the training will be included.

## **Cost**

This is a free training sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

## **Training Space**

Virtual Platform

## **Accommodations for Disabilities**

This training intends to comply with the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need any accommodations, please contact Teresa Nienow at [nienowta@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:nienowta@doj.state.wi.us).

## Training Agenda

\*Agenda is subject to change. There will be (2) 15-minute breaks each day

### Tuesday

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Introduction to Course, Instructors, and Participants
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Overview of Child Forensic Interviews
9:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Memory, Suggestibility, Language & Child Development
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	LUNCH
12:45 PM - 2:15 PM	Memory Retrieval
2:15 PM - 3:45 PM	Understanding the Disclosure Process & Abuse Dynamics
3:45 PM - 4:30 PM	Generating Multiple Hypotheses & Interviewing in a Cultural Context

### Thursday

8:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines Preparing for the Interview Introduction & Orienting the Child Interview Instructions & Oath Narrative Event Practice
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	LUNCH
12:45 PM - 4:30 PM	Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines Transition of Topic Exploration of Topic Detail Gathering, Corroboration, & Clarification Concluding the Interview

### Monday

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Overview of Peer Review
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Practicum #1, #2, #3 (young child)
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Practicum #4, #5, #6 (young child)
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Large Group Discussion

### Wednesday

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Interviewing Adolescents
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Practicum #1, #2, #3 (teen)
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Practicum #4, #5, #6 (teen)
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Large Group Discussion

### Friday

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Test Review
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Special Topics
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Legal - 908.08
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	LUNCH
12:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Legal
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Post-test, Evaluations, Certificates

## Trainers

**Lynn Cook, MSW, CAPSW** received her MSW at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in 2008. Lynn is currently one of three full time Forensic Interviewers at the Milwaukee Child Advocacy Center of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. She began her work in that capacity in July of 2015 and has conducted over 1,800 forensic interviews of children and teens who have experienced or witnessed violence and child maltreatment. In addition to her role as a contributor to the Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines curriculum and training, Lynn conducts many other statewide and national trainings in areas specific to child abuse dynamics. She is often called to testify as an expert witness in criminal trials.

Prior to her work with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Lynn worked for over seven years as a Sensitive Crimes Victim Advocate in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office. There she worked on hundreds of child sexual abuse and sexual assault cases from charging through sentencing. She has also worked in the areas of child welfare and primary prevention education, and has instructed a course at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee on Criminal Violence. Lynn is a member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children and has a Certificate in Trauma Counseling.

**Allison Flatow** is the dedicated Forensic Interviewer at Children's Wisconsin – Walworth County Child Advocacy Center. Allison started her career as a forensic interviewer in 2014. At that time, she was a float forensic interviewer working at the CACs in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Walworth. Allison then became the forensic interviewer in Walworth County in 2016. In her capacity as a forensic interviewer, Allison has interviewed approximately 1700 children who have been alleged to be victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, domestic violence, drug endangerment, or witnesses to a crime. Allison provides expert testimony regarding forensic interviewing. Allison became a trainer for the Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines in 2019. Allison is a member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and a general board member of the Tree House Child and Family Center, the house of the Walworth County Child Advocacy Center. Prior to becoming a forensic interviewer, Allison worked for 10 years in child protective services first working as an Ongoing Case Manager for what was then the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (now Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services or DMCPs), and then becoming an Initial Assessment Worker for Racine County Human Services.

**Liz Ghilardi, MSW, LCSW** received her BA at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in Social Welfare and her MSW at Washington University, George Warren Brown School of Social Work in St. Louis, MO. Ms. Ghilardi is currently the Forensic Interview Program Supervisor for Child Advocacy and Protection Services within Children's Wisconsin. She has been employed at Children's Wisconsin since 1990. She has been with the Child Advocacy Center, working as a forensic interviewer, since 1992. She has completed over 2000 interviews of children regarding allegations of child maltreatment and witness to violence. Ms. Ghilardi provides training for professionals, para-professionals & foster parents on issues of child sexual abuse, interviewing children and sexualized behavior. She has also testified in court as an expert witness regarding child sexual abuse and interviewing. She currently supervises 10 forensic interviewers in the Children's Wisconsin System throughout the state of Wisconsin as well as continues to interview children and conduct training. She has been instrumental in the development of the Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines including the curriculum, training and implementation of these guidelines across the State of Wisconsin.

Ms. Ghilardi has been a member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and a member of the Wisconsin chapter of that organization (WIPSAC) since 1995. Ms. Ghilardi is also a member of the National Association of Social Workers.

**Jennifer Ginsburg, MSSW, LCSW**, is the Executive Director of Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center in Madison, Wisconsin. She received her Master's Degree in Social Work from Columbia University in 1992, and has dedicated her career to addressing violence against women and children. Jennifer has extensive experience in training, trauma treatment, and developing a coordinated community responses to family violence. Jennifer began at Safe Harbor as the dedicated forensic interviewer in 2011. In 2014 she developed and taught the course "Interviewing Children and Involuntary Clients" at UW-Madison School of Social Work. She contributed to the development of the Wisconsin Forensic Interviewing Guidelines curriculum and training and has conducted over 1200 forensic interviews at Safe Harbor. Jennifer also provides expert testimony on forensic interviewing, child abuse victimization, and trauma.

**Robyn Klaila, MSW, CAPSW** is a Forensic Interviewer at Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center in Madison, WI. Robyn has been facilitating forensic interviews since 2011 and has completed over 1000 forensic interviews to date. Robyn provides expert testimony regarding forensic interviewing, facilitates the Dane County forensic interviewing peer review program, participates in national peer review and forensic interviewing journal club. She is trained in multiple nationally recognized forensic interviewing guidelines and protocols. Prior to her position at Safe Harbor, Robyn conducted forensic interviews for Columbia County and was also a Forensic Interviewer for Racine County Child Advocacy Center. Robyn received her master's degree in Social Work and is certified by the state of Wisconsin as an Advanced Practice Social Worker. Robyn has devoted the last 15 years of her career working with victims of abuse, while collaborating with and working alongside law enforcement agencies, child protection social workers, prosecutors and the judicial system.

**Nina Maroszek Brennan, MSW, CAPSW** is the dedicated Forensic Interviewer at Children's Wisconsin – Fox Valley Child Advocacy Center. Nina forensically interviews children who are alleged victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, drug endangerment, and witness to family violence, including homicide. She is also extensively trained in conducting interviews with children who are alleged victims of trafficking. To date, Nina has interviewed over 3,000 children and adolescents who are alleged victims of child maltreatment. Nina is a leader on the project to create and implement the Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guideline curriculum, in conjunction with other experts and practitioners both nationally and throughout the state of Wisconsin. When not interviewing children, Nina enjoys traveling the state to provide trainings to Law Enforcement, Social Workers, and Prosecutors on behalf of Children's Wisconsin, Wisconsin Department of Justice, and the Department of Human Services Training Partnership.

Nina is a member of the American Professional Society of Abused Children (APSAC) and holds a position on the board of directors for the local Wisconsin Chapter of APSAC. Nina coordinates local peer reviews for several multidisciplinary teams and is an active participant in regional case review teams. Nina earned 2 undergraduate degrees simultaneously in Social Work and Human Development from the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay and then went on to receive her master's degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.