



## Wisconsin Forensic Interview Guidelines Training January 2023

5-days, Tues-Thurs 1/24, 26,  
Mon-Wed-Fri 1/30, 2/1, 2/3 2023  
Virtual Platform

Day 1: Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Day 2: Thursday, January 26, 2023

Day 3: Monday, January 30, 2023

Day 4: Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Day 5: Friday February 3, 2023

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. **Participants must complete a recorded forensic interview within six months of program completion. Participants will also be assigned to an experienced forensic interviewer for additional onboarding. Each participant will be expected to review their first forensic interview post training with their assigned experienced interviewer along with their supervisor.**

It is strongly encouraged that WIFIG graduates participate in the DOJ supported forensic interview mentorship 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 both virtual and in-person 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 5, 2022** 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 Training January 2023

## 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 Lynn Cook at [CookLA@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:CookLA@doj.state.wi.us).

## Training Agenda

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

### Monday

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 and Suggestibility
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	LUNCH
12:45 PM - 2:15 PM	Language Development and Question Types
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

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

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

## Forensic Interview Trainers

**Lynn Cook, MSW, CAPSW** received her MSW at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in 2008. Lynn is the Children's Justice Act Program and Policy Analyst with the Department of Justice. Prior to this role, Lynn was a Forensic Interviewer 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 2,300 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 on issues of child maltreatment, interviewing children and sexualized behavior. She has also testified as an expert witness regarding child maltreatment and interviewing. She 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 the Wisconsin chapter of that organization since 1995.

**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.

**Katie Bland, MSW** is a detective with the City of Madison Police Department, currently in the Special Victims Unit, and works closely with the Dane County District Attorney's Office and Victim Witness unit as well as the Wisconsin State Crime Lab. Before beginning her career in law enforcement in 2015, Katie was a child protective services social worker in Dane County and Milwaukee County. She has extensive experience in initial assessment and ongoing services. She is a Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) certified general law enforcement and professional communications instructor. Katie regularly conducts forensic interviews at Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center in Madison. She received her bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in Social Work and master's degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## Legal Trainers

**Miriam Falk, J.D.**, began as an Assistant Attorney General for Wisconsin in the Training & Standards Bureau in August 2014. She is the State Resource Prosecutor and LE Trainer for sexual assault and domestic violence. Before that, she worked as an Asst. DA in Milwaukee, assigned to their Sensitive Crimes Unit for the last 23 of her 27 years with the office, spending her first four years at Children's Court handling CHIPS and TPR cases. Miriam has extensive training experience in Wisconsin and nationally on a wide variety of topics related to sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking, as well as trial advocacy and interviewing adults and children. Out of law school she worked for 2 years for a small litigation firm in Milwaukee. Miriam graduated from UW-Madison Law School in 1985, and got her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1982 from Marquette University, magna cum laude. She is married and has two young adult daughters.

**Erin Karshen** is an Assistant District Attorney for the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office and serves as the team captain of the Sensitive Crimes Unit where Erin supervises six other attorneys. Erin prosecutes sexual assaults involving child and adult victims, domestic violence sexual assaults, human trafficking cases, child pornography, sextortion and other invasion of privacy crimes. Erin has presented on the topic of human trafficking to law enforcement, nurses, and in schools. Erin also created a program to teach internet safety to local schools and so far has presented to over 2000 student from second grade to eight grade. Her work in sextortion has been noticed by the Brookings Institute and other national platforms.

As a member of ICAC, Erin has received extensive training on the use of technology to commit crimes and techniques used in investigations and prosecutions to enhance the strength criminal cases. Erin has presented at several statewide and national conferences on Video Voyeurism, sextortion and "Revenge Porn" and has reviewed and prosecuted many cases involving related criminal offenses. In addition, she has consulted with prosecutors in other counties to assist in prosecution of technology related sex offenses.

Erin received her law degree from Marquette University in 2003. Before her job as a prosecutor, Erin worked for Centro Legal a local nonprofit. In this position she provided legal assistance to low-income individuals seeking to transition out of poverty or dangerous living situations.

Erin has been an assistant district attorney since 2005. Prior to her entry into this unit, she prosecuted specifically domestic violence related sexual assaults and spent time in the Domestic Violence Unit. Erin has done over 200 criminal jury trials with half of those being sexual assault cases.

**Rebecca Sommers, J.D.**, is the Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor at the Wisconsin Department of Justice. Rebecca began as an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Litigation Unit in August 2020. Rebecca previously worked as an Assistant District Attorney in Racine County, where she handled a wide variety of cases including sexual assault, homicide, and mayhem. Rebecca has experience both in Wisconsin and nationally training on issues related to sexual assault prosecution. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Classical Humanities from the University of Wisconsin Madison and received her Juris Doctor from the McGeorge School of Law.

**Melinda Tempelis** is the District Attorney for Outagamie County and has been a prosecutor since 2003. In 2002, Ms. Tempelis received her law degree from UW-Madison and obtained a Masters in Public Affairs from the La Follette School of Public Affairs at UW – Madison. Ms. Tempelis has handled a variety of misdemeanor and felony cases, as well as the juvenile delinquency and CHIPS cases. She specializes in victim crimes, including sexual assault and child maltreatment cases. She is active on many multi-disciplinary committees and organizations associated with the criminal justice system. Ms. Tempelis has done training on a wide variety of topics for the Fox Valley Technical College, the Office of Justice Assistance and the Department of Justice. In addition, she has trained prosecutors, law enforcement, sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE), child protection workers, social workers, advocates, first responders, and medical providers on a variety of issues, including WIFIG, strangulation, sexual abuse and domestic violence both locally and statewide. Ms. Tempelis is also a member of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission and a board member of the Wisconsin District Attorney's Association.

**Matthew Torbenson** - Deputy District Attorney, oversees the domestic violence unit, the sensitive crimes unit, the child protection and advocacy unit, and the Chapter 980 (sexually violent persons) unit within the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office. Matthew also directly handles child homicides and complex child maltreatment cases.

Matthew has extensive training and experience in prosecuting complex child abuse and child neglect matters, with specialization in child homicides, abusive head trauma (formerly shaken baby), child torture cases, inflicted burn injuries, medical child abuse, and child neglect.

In addition to his expertise in child maltreatment, in 2011 Matthew successfully negotiated the first ever return of a child who was abducted by a parent to Japan. In 2015 Matthew partnered with the US Attorney's Office to negotiate the safe return of a child who was abducted by her mother to Mexico.

Prior to serving as the team captain of CPAU, Matthew served as the team captain of the juvenile sensitive crimes unit for five years, where Matthew successfully prosecuted a number of complex cases, including gang sexual assaults and one of the first widespread "sexstortion" cases in Wisconsin's history.

Matthew grew up in the City of Milwaukee, attending Milwaukee Public Schools. In 2001 Matthew graduated from Marquette University with a triple major in history, social philosophy, and criminology. In 2004 Matthew graduated from Marquette Law School and was hired by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office by then District Attorney E. Michael McCann.