

Syllabus for University

Title

Introduction to Child Abuse Investigations and Sex Crimes
A condensed overview of these heinous crimes and how they are investigated.

Length

Duration can be lengthened to fit the goals of the University. Ideally 1-3 hours

About the Instructor

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.

Goal and Purpose

Child Abuse and Sex Crimes cases are very time consuming and challenging. An infant cannot tell you how they were injured. There are often no witnesses in a spousal rape. A delay in reporting or continuous questioning will all impact the outcome of the case. These investigations have multiple players such as social services, health care professionals, the school, domestic shelters etc. How will a 5-year-old testify against their dad? How will the Officer solicit a willing confession from the suspect? Attendees will be introduced to Basic Crime Scene Investigation from the initial call to the Interview Process. The lesson will end with Court room testimony and healthy stress management.

Examples will be provided from the presenter's experience. Obstacles such as false reports, medical conditions and weak witnesses will be reviewed. The attendee will leave with a better understanding of this lengthy process and the imperativeness of perseverance.

Participants

This lecture is recommended for students interested in a career in law enforcement, psychology students interested in the abuse cycle or any student or staff who want to understand the intricate fibers of these cases and how law enforcement handles them.

Topics of Discussion

1. Introduction to the police and their duties

Defining Child Abuse, Sex crimes and Prioritizing cases.

Goal: To familiarize the learner with the specific sections of the investigative network that work on these cases. A better understanding of statutes and definitions to engage the learner in the complexity and challenging hurdles often experienced. Who is a mandated reporter?

2. Basic Crime Scene Investigation

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.

3. Interview and Interrogation/Interaction With Victims, Witnesses and Suspects

Goal: 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. Miranda Rights, lawyers and Confessions will all be discussed

4. The Child Advocacy Center, Medical Professionals, [OBJ] Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team, Children and Youth Services

Goal: To introduce the purpose and importance of the CAC, Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team and Children and Youth Services as well as the role of the medical professional.

5. Court Room Testimony and Healthy Stress Management

Goal: To explain the different facets of courtroom appearances and how to prepare for them. Good testimony on the stand and the relationship between the DA and the Officer.

Goal: These cases take a toll on even the most hardened investigator. Healthy outlets for stress is crucial to a long career. Lack of stress management often shows its face in domestic violence, alcoholism or suicide. The attendee will leave humbled and engaged with an appreciation of dedication of the officers who investigate these crimes.

6. (Alternative to Court Room Testimony) Human Trafficking

Goal: To introduce and define Human Trafficking. Truths on the topic will be compared to myths. Risk Factors, Power and Control Tactics and Laws relating to Human Trafficking will be discussed.

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Please ensure all cell phones are OFF during the presentation.