Syllabus for Law Enforcement CA

**Title:**

Introductory - Intermediate Child Abuse Investigations

A comprehensive guideline from initial reporting to court testimony

**Length:**

Two consecutive days. 8 hours a day (breaks and 1 hour lunch included)

**Goal and Purpose**

Child Abuse cases are time consuming and challenging investigations. An infant cannot tell you how they were injured. There are often no witnesses. A delay in reporting or continuous questioning will all impact the outcome of the case. A successful conviction can be destroyed by the inexperience of a newer officer. The investigation is shared with social services, health care professionals, the school, the CAC and a variety of other stakeholders. How will a 5-year-old testify against their dad? How will the Officer solicit a willing confession from the suspect?

Officers will be introduced to a thorough review of Crimes Code Statutes relative to Child Abuse Investigations and how to prioritize the cases. They will follow initial investigative steps from Basic Fact-Finding Interviews to Basic Crime Scene Investigation.

A comprehensive guideline on how to interview and understand sexual deviant behavior and prepare for a solid Interrogation will be introduced. Day 2 will continue to challenge the Officer by introducing more advanced practices such as Search Warrants and surveillance. They will be acquainted with more difficult cases to investigate such as SIDS, shaken baby and Human Trafficking.

An articulate Officer, who can aptly document their actions is an investigative must. Therefore, report writing skills will be reinforced. The lesson will end with Court room testimony.

It is the goal of this two-day class to build on the skills learned in the Police Academy and Patrol. The officer should leave with a substantial understanding of how these cases work and a suggested protocol to follow when investigating them. Upon successful completion of this class, a novice officer, unfamiliar with these complicated cases, should be able to handle an investigation with confidence.

Examples will be provided from the presenter/s experience and case law will be referenced. Obstacles such as false reports, medical conditions and poor witnesses will be reviewed.

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 was a Field Training Officer for 10 years. 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.

**Participants:**

This lecture is recommended for the new officer, new detective or supervision.

**Topics of Discussion** **Est. Duration in Hours**

**1. Navigating the Crimes Code**  **2.0**

**Where do we get our authority?**

**2. The Child Abuse Report**  **1.0**

**Priority?**

**3. Basic Crime Scene Investigation** **2.0**

**And Photography**

**4. Interview and Interrogation/Interaction** **2.0**

**With Victims, Witnesses and Perps**

**5. The CAC, Medical Professionals**  **1.0**

**MDIT, CYS**

**6. Report Writing & Search Warrants** **1.0**

**7. Court Room Testimony** **1.0**

**8. Complicated Cases 2.0**

**9. Human Trafficking**  **1.0**

1. **Navigation of Crimes Code**

Goal: To familiarize the learner with the specific sections of the Crimes Code that give an Officer the ability and power to perform their duties. A better understanding of statute enhances the Officers confidence to perform professionally and efficiently.

**2. The Child Abuse Report**

Goal: To determine which cases should be a priority. The suggested actions of the Officer to ensure a successful investigation will be discussed. This module will go over child death, sexual assault and serious injuries and the protocols associated with both priority and non-priority cases. Who is the mandated reporter?

**3.** **Basic Crime Scene Investigation and Photography**

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.

**4. Interview and Interrogation/Interaction with Victims, Witnesses and Perps**

Goal: To introduce and explain the importance of the CAC vs. Basic information gathering. 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. Strategies for exposing deception.

**5. The CAC, Medical Professionals, MDIT and CYS**

Goal: To introduce the purpose and importance of the CAC and how it can help your case. The importance of a functional and professional relationship with Medical Professionals. The rape kit will be discussed. Multi- Disciplinary Investigative Teams, what is their purpose and is it worth attending? The role and purpose of the Sane Nurse,

CYS caseworker and Victims Services employee.

**6. Report Writing and Search Warrants**

Goal: Assist and guide Officers in articulating the events and writing a successful report. Explain the difference between a Criminal Complaint, Affidavit of Probable Cause and a Police Report.

**7. Court Room Testimony**

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

**8. Difficult Cases**

Goal: To educate officers on crimes such as Megan’s Law Violations, Incest, and Human Trafficking. Examples will be provided from the presenter/s experience and case law will be referenced. Many topics will be covered including grooming, examples of sexual deviant behavior, domestic violence, spouse rape, pedophilia and how to begin a Megan’s Law Investigation

**9. Human Trafficking**

Goal: To introduce Officer to crippling epidemic sweeping our nation. Human Trafficking will be defined for both sexual and labor. A one-hour PowerPoint will be presented on recognizing and reporting as well as the beginning steps on investigation- such as letters and multi-jurisdictional cooperation.