

# East Central Illinois Mobile Law Enforcement Training Team

## MTU #13

### Course Announcement



#### Interviewing Children

January 23rd, 2026

0830-1630 Hrs

Denny Stewart Police Training Center

3121 Dewitt Avenue

Mattoon, IL

Submit enrollment to:

Registration form at

[www.mtu13.com](http://www.mtu13.com)

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** This course has been designed to provide patrol officers, investigators, or juvenile officers with additional methods and information for interviewing children in criminal investigations. Interviewing children requires a special skillset.

This course will provide a framework for interviewing children who are victims or witnesses to crimes. Our instructor conducts over 125 forensic interviews of children per year.

EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON PRACTICAL EXERCISES CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT THE COURSE. THIS COURSE WILL UTILIZE CASE VIGNETTES FOR PRACTICAL APPLICATION.

Topics to be discussed include the following:

- Interview settings for children

- Child development and cognitive abilities – What should your expectations be for different age groups

- Cognitive evaluation

- Types of questions – from open-ended to leading

- Interviewing aides

- Stages of a child interview

- Establishing timelines with children

- Blocks to interviewing children – Disabilities and Mental Health issues

While issues of domestic violence to children and sexual assault of children will be discussed, it is not the intent of this course to teach those types of interview techniques specifically.

#### **Observed Mandates Include:**

Civil Rights

Constit. Use of Proper LE Authority

Crisis Intervention

Human Rights

Procedural Justice

LHI Refresher

Ofc. Youth Interactions