

East Central Illinois Mobile Law Enforcement Training Team

MTU #13

Course Announcement



Investigating Child Death and Abuse

December 15th-16th, 2025

0830-1630 Hrs

Denny Stewart Training Center

3121 Dewitt Avenue

Mattoon, Il.

Submit enrollment to:

Registration form at

www.mtu13.com

Purpose of the Course

The aim of this intensive 16-hour session is to equip law enforcement officers with the essential guidance and knowledge needed to respond effectively to child abuse and child death investigations. This training will focus on the unique characteristics of a child's disclosure, providing the tools and best practices for recognizing and documenting key elements during investigations.

What You'll Learn

- **Understanding Child Abuse:** Gain insights into the medical aspects of child abuse and how they relate to law enforcement work.
- **Effective Investigation Techniques:** Learn to approach allegations objectively and professionally to avoid false accusations while not overlooking potentially deadly abuse.
- **Evidence Collection and Preservation:** Explore case-specific information to aid both patrol officers and detectives in handling evidence related to child abuse and death cases.
- **Trauma-Informed Responses:** Understand the importance of a compassionate and ethical approach in dealing with child victims and their families.

Resources for Investigators: Discover tools and resources that can aid in complex investigations, including scene reenactments.

Why Attend?

Observed Mandates Include:

Human Rights

Procedural Justice

Psychology of Dom Violence

Reporting Child Abuse

Lead Homicide Investigations

- **Expert-Led Sessions:** Learn from experienced instructors who will guide you through the complexities of child abuse investigations.
- **Interactive Case Studies:** Engage with real-world scenarios that will help you apply what you learn in the field.
- **Professional Development:** Strengthen your investigative skills and improve your effectiveness in child abuse and death cases.

Networking Opportunities: Connect with other law enforcement professionals and build relationships that can be valuable in future cases.

This course is funded by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board.

Instructor: Jennifer Hillgoth has been in law enforcement for 19 years and has been a detective for approx. 8 years. Jen has conducted hundreds of investigations involving crimes against children and is also a child forensic interviewer, which has afforded her the ability to conduct numerous child forensic interviews on both child victims and witnesses. Jen has provided expert witness testimony in child abuse, she is an active member on the Illinois Child Death Review Team, the Child Protection Team at Central DuPage Hospital, the Community Advisory Board with Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago and the Family Violence Coordinating Council. Jen has provided training and education for law enforcement, medical providers, child life specialists, social workers, attorneys, DCFS, CASA, Children's Advocacy Centers and educators. She has presented for The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), Children's Advocacy Center's of Illinois,

Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi, Louisiana MDTs including Louisiana Supreme Court, CASA and

Children's Advocacy Centers, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, Family Violence Coordinating Council, Northwestern/Delnor Hospital, Lurie Children's Hospital, Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County, Kane

County Major Crimes Task Force, Aurora University and Kane County CASA. She has a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology and is finishing her studies at Loyola University Chicago where she will obtain a Masters of Jurisprudence in Children's Law and Policy.



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