Investigating Child Abuse and Fatalities:
Advanced Strategies for Law Enforcement

(2.5) 2.5 Day Training from 8:00am - 4:00pm
1-hour Lunch Break from 12:00 Noon – 1:00pm
On 3rd Day Training Hours are from 8:00am – 12 noon
Total of **18** In-Service Training Hours
Instructor: Professor Don V. Haley

Course Description:
Child abuse and child fatality cases are among the most complex, emotionally taxing, and critical investigations law enforcement officers face. As these horrific crimes continue to impact communities nationwide, investigators and initial responders face unique challenges in successfully identifying abuse, navigating the intricacies of the law, and securing justice for our most vulnerable victims.

Designed for both frontline patrol officers and dedicated investigators, this comprehensive course provides the specialized skills required to effectively investigate child abuse, neglect, and death. Through a blend of behavioral analysis, forensic evidence identification, and real-world case studies, students will learn to look beyond the surface of an allegation or crime scene.

Participants will explore the psychology of both the child victim and the offender, enabling them to conduct more effective interviews and recognize hidden patterns of abuse. Furthermore, attendees will be equipped with practical, field-tested tools—including a comprehensive initial-response death scene checklist—designed to capture vital, fleeting information during the crucial first hours of a child fatality investigation.

Who Should Attend This course is essential for Patrol Officers, Detectives, Crimes Against Children Investigators, Prosecutors, and any law enforcement professionals who respond to or investigate allegations of child abuse, neglect, sexual assault, or unexpected child deaths.

Course Objectives Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- **Analyze Injury Patterns:** Identify and interpret physical injury patterns to accurately differentiate between accidental trauma and inflicted abuse.
- **Execute Advanced Documentation:** Implement rigorous evidence collection and crime scene documentation techniques specific to cases of child abuse and neglect.
- **Conduct Trauma-Informed Interviews:** Utilize developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed techniques to effectively interview child victims and witnesses.
- **Interrogate Suspects Effectively:** Employ specialized interviewing and interrogation strategies tailored to the unique behaviors and defenses of child abusers.
- **Investigate Sexual Assault:** Navigate the specific complexities and evidentiary requirements of child sexual assault investigations.
- **Profile Offender Behavior:** Examine offender profiling concepts to identify the behavioral, psychological, and operational traits of child abusers and child killers.

- **Apply Developmental Psychology:** Leverage an understanding of child development and behavior to better assess victim statements, reactions, and delays in reporting.
- **Manage Fatalities:** Utilize specialized protocols and checklists to secure and analyze a child death scene during the critical first hours of the investigation.