

# When Words Matter:

Emerging Issues in Forensic Interviewing



July 29 – August 1, 2013 • Columbus, OH

## *When Words Matter*

is the largest annual conference for forensic interviewers in the United States. *When Words Matter* is designed to extend the concepts taught at basic forensic interviewing courses.

## What attendees have said about *When Words Matter 2012*:

“Overall I felt this was a great presentation. I enjoyed the opportunity to network with people that ‘get it.’ I wanted to say thank you!”

“The conference was excellent. Applicable to interviewers in general. Even for those using other interview protocols.”

“My only regret about this training is that it had to end.”

Presented By:



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“Cuando las Palabras Importan 2013” tendrá interpretación en español (gratis). ¡Mire dentro!

# Conference Agenda

## What is *When Words Matter*?

*When Words Matter* is the largest annual conference for forensic interviewers in the United States. *When Words Matter* is designed to extend the concepts taught at five day forensic interviewing courses.

## Who Should Attend:

In addition to forensic interviewers, the course is ideal for child abuse prosecutors, child protection attorneys, law enforcement officers, social workers and medical or mental health professionals who work with maltreated children.



## Location, Accommodations, and Reservations:

NCPTC is proud and excited to host *When Words Matter* Ohio!

*When Words Matter* 2013 will be held at the **Columbus Downtown Hilton**. Rooms will be available at a special per diem rate of \$94.00 per night. You must mention “National Child Protection Training Center” to get the discounted rate.

Call **(614) 384-8600** to reserve your room today or visit our website to reserve your room online!

## Fees

(Registration also available online at [www.ncptc.org](http://www.ncptc.org)):

**\$300 Early Bird Registration** (if payment post-marked by 6/30/2013)

**\$350 Registration Fee** (online registration closes at 12:00pm CDT on July 26, 2013; all paper registration forms must be received by this date)

**\$375 Late Registration Fee** (received after 7/26/2013)

*Registration refund cut-off date: 6/29/2013 (We will reserve an administration fee of \$25 for each refund, no exceptions)*

## Credit Hours:

We are currently in the application process. Once accreditation is approved for the course, we will post the information online at [www.ncptc.org](http://www.ncptc.org). For reference, last year *When Words Matter* was approved for the following:

- 25.75 CLE by the Minnesota Continuing Legal Education Board
- 28 CEU by the National Association of Social Work
- 28 POST training hours by the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Council

## Online Course – Also Available in Spanish!

Multidisciplinary teams around the world attended our online training powered by iRecord last year. Hundreds of child protection professionals have been able to access this groundbreaking and inspirational conference at their own convenience. This year, the course will be recorded by iRecord and offered on-demand.

Each student attending the course in Columbus will be eligible to view the online training for a charge of \$10 and will be able to have four additional members of his or her multidisciplinary team view the online course at \$10 per person.

What attendees said about the online training:

“ Love the webinar format - only one person in the office could afford to travel so this is excellent!”



“Thank you very much for this valuable opportunity. Without the translators, I would not have been able to attend. Child forensic interview[ing] is not recognized in my workplace, but having been with a lot of peers [the training] gave me inspiration and support.” (ChildFirst™ Japan training)

The online course requires a broadband connection with at least 500 Kbps for the best viewing experience. Please contact iRecord with any concern about viewing the video at 1-800-425-7637.

You must register as a team and include the information of the individual who will attend the conference in Columbus. After we receive your registration, you will receive a confirmation email. The special rate is \$10 per team member. If you would like to register online, please email [admin@ncptc-jwrc.org](mailto:admin@ncptc-jwrc.org) for the link. The general registration fee for the online seminar is \$400 per person for teams without a member attending the conference in Columbus.

*\*Please note that the online training will not qualify for most educational credit hours as it is a showing of the video footage of the conference and will not be interactive with the trainers themselves. Participants will not receive certificates of completion.*

## Monday, July 29, 2013

**8:00-8:15** **Opening Remarks – Victor Vieth**, Executive Director, National Child Protection Training Center

**8:15-10:00** **Presenting Evidence in Forensic Interviews**

**Catherine Connell**, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

**Martha Finnegan**, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

**Description:** This presentation will focus on how to present evidence in the forensic interview. Particular emphasis will be given to using child pornography images and explaining the how, when and why of utilizing these images.

**10:00-10:15** **Break**

**10:15-12:00** **Gaining Cooperation and the Non Supportive Caregiver**

**Stephanie Smith**, National Child Protection Training Center

**Susanne Walters**, National Child Protection Training Center

**Description:** Non-offending caregivers play a critical role from the initial outcry through the investigation, resolution and aftermath in cases of child maltreatment. MDTs should assess the attitude and response of these individuals at the outset for the benefit of the child as well as their own work. This session will discuss the impact of the non-offending caregiver for each aspect of the MDT and the child and how the team can assess the caregiver's response initially and throughout the pendency of the case. The presenters will address the ways in which a supportive caregiver can aid in the investigative and judicial process as well as how they can provide comfort and protection for the child. Also included is discussion of the risks for all involved, especially the child, when a caregiver is not supportive of the child's disclosure or is hostile to the MDT. Suggestions will be offered for how to engage a non-supportive caregiver and what to do to ensure the child's safety and protect the case if engagement efforts fail.

**12:00-1:15** **Lunch**

**1:15 -2:45** **Defending my Interview in Court**

**Rita Farrell**, National Child Protection Training Center

**Description:** The field of forensic interviewing is a constantly evolving profession. The workshop will provide students concrete suggestions for defending their work in court and how to prepare for testifying in court. They will also learn about common cross-examination tactics and how to respond to them. Finally, students will learn how to handle themselves in a direct examination.

**2:45-3:00** **Break**

**3:00-5:00** **Interviewing Juvenile Suspects: Are Interrogations Reliable?**

**Mindy Mitnick**, Licensed Psychologist

**Victor Vieth**, National Child Protection Training Center

**Description:** This presentation will provide a multidisciplinary approach to the problem of juveniles' abilities to provide reliable information during interrogations about suspected crimes. A prosecutor and a forensic psychologist will consider whether juveniles should be afforded the same developmentally-sensitive interview practices as suspected victims. We will look at whether juveniles can understand the Miranda warning and investigation questions. The presentation will also examine juveniles' abilities in light of research on brain and psychosocial development.

## Tuesday, July 30, 2013

**8:00-10:00** **Minimizing Miscommunication in Child Forensic Interviews**

**Julie Kenniston**, Butler County Children Services

**Description:** Children acquire language in a cultural context. The meaning of words does not come as quickly as the use of those words when communicating. Some words are less reliable, such as pronouns and prepositions. Other words are not reliable because the cognitive processes needed to understand the use of these words have not been mastered by the child. This presentation will provide information on children's use of language as preschoolers and as school-aged children. These concepts will be applied to the process of gathering information from children in forensic interviews. By understanding children's abilities to communicate, a forensic interview can be linguistically sensitive to the child's needs and be conducted in a legally sound manner.

**10:00-10:15** **Break**

**10:15-12:00** **Forensic Interviewing Panel**

**Jennifer Anderson**, CornerHouse Interagency Child Abuse Evaluation and Training Center

**Andra Chamberlain**, National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC)

**Julie Kenniston**, Butler County Children Services

**Amy Russell**, National Child Protection Training Center

**Heather Stewart**, Salt Lake County Children's Justice Center

**Viola Vaughn Eden**, President, American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

**Description:** This panel will discuss best practice for the field of forensic interviewing and multiple techniques that are utilized in interviews with children. The panel will take audience questions and outline the work they have done over the past years for the field of interviewing.

**12:00-1:30** **Lunch**

**1:30-3:30** **Ethics of Working within an MDT**

**Amy Russell**, National Child Protection Training Center

**Description:** This session will address ethical issues and practice recommendations for professionals involved in child abuse evaluations. Discussion will also cover training needs for professionals and the importance of balancing the needs of the alleged child victim and MDT members when making decisions and recommendations in child maltreatment cases.

**3:30-3:45** **Break**

**3:45-5:00** **“What a Medical Exam Can and Can't Tell You”**

**Ann Budzak-Garza**, Gundersen Health System

**Description:** This workshop will focus on the medical exam for child sexual abuse. The exam process will be explained as well as ideal circumstances to prepare for the exam before the child arrives. We will review timing of exams and who should have a medical exam. Benefits of the exam to the child, family and multidisciplinary team will be discussed. Results of the exam and how this contributes to a child abuse investigation will also be presented.

## Wednesday, July 31, 2013

**8:00-10:00** **Child Interviewing: Update on research and practice**

**Tom Lyon**, University Southern California Law

**Description:** This presentation will provide the latest research on how interviewers can increase children's productivity through questions that are specific without being leading. The goal is to ensure that we obtain the information we need to provide adequate protection without risking suggestiveness or shutting the child down. The research will be supplemented with case studies and clips of interviews. The presentation will discuss how to make narrative practice rapport building maximally productive by emphasizing specific events.

**10:00-10:15** **Break**

**10:15 – 11:15** **Chaplains for Children: Twelve Potential Roles for a Theologian on the MDT**

**Victor Vieth**, National Child Protection Training Center

**Description:** A large and growing body of research documents the frequency with which children are abused in the name of religion. When this happens, the perpetrator negatively impacts the child's sense of spirituality which, for many victims, is a primary coping mechanism. This workshop explores possible approaches for incorporating theologians into the MDT to assist in addressing spiritual injuries of maltreated children.

**11:15- 12:30** **Child Abuse Allegations in Custody Cases**

**Connilee Christie**, Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis

**Matt Lindemeyer**, Gasconade County Sheriff's Department

**Description:** The presentation will focus on challenges that MDTs face when allegations of child abuse are present in custody cases. The presenters will discuss the impact these allegations have on investigations. The participants will learn strategies to appropriately address these types of allegations to ensure best practice.

**12:30-1:30** **Lunch**

**1:30- 3:00** **Peer Review**

**Andrea Richey**, Cincinnati Children Hospital Medical Center Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children

**Description:** This presentation will discuss the importance of a coordinated peer review process for MDTs. The participants will learn how peer review is conducted at a statewide level and all the components that should be included for an effective peer review process. Peer review challenges will be discussed and concrete solutions will be provided to assist in overcoming challenges.

**3:00-3:15** **Break**

**3:15-4:45** **ACEs Research**

**Denyse Olson-Dorff**, Gundersen Health System

**Description:** The ongoing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) studies out of Kaiser Permanente and the Center for Disease Control suggest that childhood maltreatment and family dysfunction are major risk factors for the leading causes of illness, death and poor psychosocial adjustment in the United States. Cumulative adverse childhood events have a role in poor physical health, problematic health risk behaviors, learning challenges, behavior problems and disease. This presentation will introduce participants to the ACEs study, its implications for public health and the importance of an effective community response to situations of maltreatment and family dysfunction.

## Thursday, August 1, 2013

**8:00-9:30** **Working with Survivors at our Child Advocacy Centers**

**Howard R. Fradkin**, A Center for Psychotherapy and Growth

**Description:** The workshop will explore issues surrounding the sexual victimization of males through the use of film and clinical case examples. Attendees will be helped to better understand the complex, and often misunderstood, dynamics of being a male survivor and some of the unique challenges and pressures faced by this population.

Included will be a defining of terms, a focus on myths surrounding male sexual victimization, distinguishing features between male and female survivors, and understanding the clinical dynamics and after-effects of abuse.

A primary focus of the workshop will be on helping participants identify ways they can interview male survivors to help them feel safe enough to speak their truth. Barriers to speaking the truth will also be identified, along with ways to address those barriers.

**9:30-9:45** **Break**

**9:45-11:00** **Animals in our Interviews and Courtroom**

**Danielle Hughes**, P.A.W.S.

**Description:** This presentation will discuss certified pet therapy animals, where they are being used and the efforts which created the PAWS program. The presentation will also discuss the utilization of Pet Advocates outside the court process and share examples of the power of the “puppy” in helping children disclose abuse and feel secure.

**11:00-11:15** **Break**

**11:15-12:30** **Expert Testimony: Staying between the Lane Markers to Avoid Crashes**

**Stephanie Smith**, National Child Protection Training Center

**Description:** Expert testimony can be compelling evidence to aid juries in the decision-making process; overstepping the bounds of what is appropriate for an expert to say on the stand can result in mistrials or retrials to the detriment of the victim and his/her family. This session will review case law critical of forensic interviewers' expert testimony and breakdown the specific concerns articulated by the reviewing court. Suggestions will be offered for tailoring the testimony to be purposeful, informative and persuasive without violating the rules of evidence or providing appeal arguments.

**12:30** **Closing Remarks – Victor Vieth**, Executive Director, National Child Protection Training Center



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**When Words Matter 2013 will offer Spanish interpretation of the entire conference. To download our registration form in Spanish, visit [www.ncptc.org](http://www.ncptc.org).**

“Cuando las Palabras Importan: Temas emergentes en la Entrevista Forense” se llevará a cabo el 29 de julio al 1 de agosto 2013 en Columbus, Ohio. El congreso informativo e innovador reunirá expertos reconocidos a nivel nacional de áreas diversas en la protección de niños, niñas y adolescentes. Los temas serán de gran utilidad para los fiscales, policía, investigadores, personal de los servicios de protección de menores, los entrevistadores forenses, los representantes de víctimas, los psicólogos de menores, los profesionales médicos, y otras personas que entrevistan los menores o los preparan para el juicio. Para los servicios de interpretación, por favor, acceda al sitio [www.ncptc.org](http://www.ncptc.org) y seleccione “Training Conferences,” luego, “When Words Matter 2013” para descargar e imprimir nuestro formulario de inscripción en español.



**Questions?  
Please contact us!**

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