



# Forensic Interview Training

## Keeping Kids Safe Across Minnesota



### The First Conversation Matters

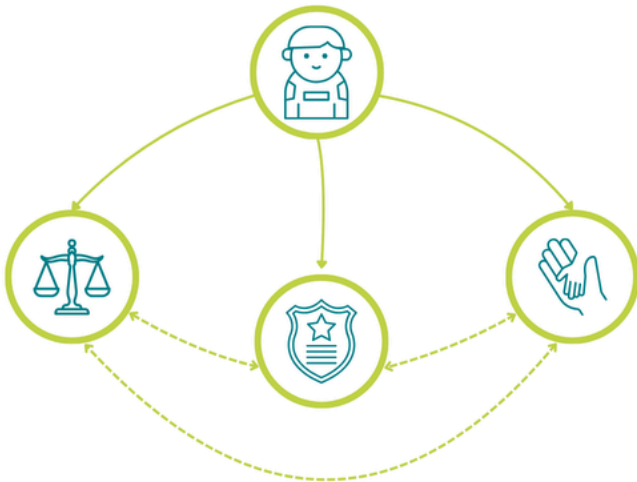
When child abuse is suspected, a child must be able to share their experience. In many cases, the child is the primary source of information, and there may be little or no physical evidence for investigators to rely on. How and by whom that conversation happens matters greatly.

Without coordination, multiple systems may attempt to gather information independently, increasing the risk that a child is questioned repeatedly, inconsistently, and in ways that can cause additional trauma or compromise the integrity of the information shared.

### What Is a Forensic Interview?

A forensic interview is a structured, neutral, child-centered conversation conducted by a specially trained professional to gather accurate information in a developmentally appropriate way. It follows nationally recognized, evidence-based protocols that protect both the child's well-being and the integrity of the investigation.

- ✦ Neutral and non-leading
- ✦ Developmentally appropriate
- ✦ Conducted once, not repeatedly
- ✦ Defensible and usable in court



Without a trained forensic interviewer



With a trained forensic interviewer



# Forensic Interview Training Matters for Children

**How Forensic Interview Training Goes Beyond the Standard.**  
*This training is specialized, providing unique skills and knowledge.*



Child Development  
& Trauma



Memory & Non-  
Leading Questions



Protecting Accuracy  
& Integrity of Cases

**One Interview. One Team. A Coordinated Response.**  
*A joint approach minimizes trauma and duplication.*

In an overwhelmed system,  
this approach improves  
efficiency for law  
enforcement and courts while  
strengthening accountability  
for abuse and neglect.



The Minnesota Children's Alliance supports forensic interview training and coordinated responses so children are spoken to once, in a safe and trauma-informed way. Continued investment helps close access gaps and ensures children across Minnesota receive consistent, high-quality care.