



## First Responders Academy - Law Enforcement Academy

### **The Investigation of Child Abuse and Child Death** **Understanding and Addressing a Critical Issue**

The course on the investigation of child abuse and child death is an intensive program designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to handle these sensitive cases. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical techniques, participants will learn to identify, investigate, and respond effectively to incidents of child abuse and child fatalities.

**Instructor:** Dr. Anita Seamens

#### **Course Objective(s):**

- Understand the different forms of child abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect.
- Recognize the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect.
- Investigate child abuse and child death cases using appropriate methodologies.
- Conduct interviews with children, caregivers, and potential witnesses sensitively and effectively.
- Collaborate with other professionals such as medical personnel, social workers, and legal experts.
- Understand the legal framework and the importance of evidence preservation in child abuse and child death investigations.

#### **Course Cost**

Enrollment Only: Two (2) Eight (8) Hour Days, \$50.00, Minimal 10 Students and Maximum of 40 Students

**Upon Completion** Student will receive a course completion certificate for 16 hours of training. The 16 hours will be reported to TCOLE as part of your training record. Students must attend all 16 hours of training to have training reported to TCOLE training record.

**To Sign-Up for the Course** Please email [sac-lea@alamo.edu](mailto:sac-lea@alamo.edu)

Payment due day of the class in credit card, debit card, cash (exact amount) or cashier check, personal check, agency check, money order made payable to: **SAC First Responders Academy**

#### **Training Dates and Location**

First Responders Academy, 15775 IH 35 South, Atascosa, TX 78002 (exit 139 Hwy 35 S) Room 101

Monday & Tuesday, October 20-21, 2025, Time: 8 am to 5 pm – 1 hour for lunch



# The Investigation of Child Abuse and Child Death

Understanding and  
Addressing a Critical  
Issue

# Course Description: The Investigation of Child Abuse and Child Death

Understanding and Addressing a Critical Issue

## Course Overview

The course on the investigation of child abuse and child death is an intensive program designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to handle these sensitive cases. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical techniques, participants will learn to identify, investigate, and respond effectively to incidents of child abuse and child fatalities.

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the different forms of child abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect.
- Recognize the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect.
- Investigate child abuse and child death cases using appropriate methodologies.
- Conduct interviews with children, caregivers, and potential witnesses sensitively and effectively.
- Collaborate with other professionals such as medical personnel, social workers, and legal experts.
- Understand the legal framework and the importance of evidence preservation in child abuse and child death investigations.

## Course Content

### Introduction to Child Abuse and Child Death

This section provides an overview of child abuse and child death, including definitions, prevalence, and the various types of abuse. Students will learn about the psychological, physical, and social impacts on the victims and their families.

## Identification and Recognition

Students will learn the indicators of different types of child abuse and how to recognize them. This includes understanding the behavioral and physical signs that might suggest a child is being mistreated.

## Investigation Techniques

This module covers the protocols and procedures for investigating child abuse and child death cases. Participants will be trained in collecting evidence, conducting interviews, and documenting findings accurately and comprehensively.

## Interviewing Child Victims and Witnesses

Effective interviewing techniques are crucial in child abuse investigations. This section will teach students how to communicate with children in a way that is non-threatening and conducive to obtaining accurate information.

## Interviewing Suspects

Child abuse and child death investigations are enhanced when a confession can be obtained. This module will cover the best practices for obtaining a confession or admission to the crime being investigated.

## Legal Considerations

Understanding the legal aspect of child abuse investigations is essential. This section will cover relevant laws, the importance of safeguarding evidence, and the procedures for court presentations.

## Prevention and Intervention Strategies

Participants will learn about the strategies to prevent child abuse and intervene early when abuse is suspected. This will include community-based programs, public awareness campaigns, and support services for families.

## Assessment and Evaluation

Students will be assessed through a combination of class discussion and participation.

## Target Audience

This course is ideal for law enforcement officers and investigators who are involved in child protection.

## Conclusion

The investigation of child abuse and child death is a challenging but critical responsibility. This course aims to provide comprehensive training to ensure that professionals are well-equipped to handle these cases with the utmost care and effectiveness. Through education and collaboration, we can work towards a safer environment for all children.