



child abuse *INVESTIGATIONS*

No One Wants to Work Them

Child physical and sexual abuse incidents are the most difficult cases to investigate. Period. Nothing is harder to solve, nothing is harder to stomach, nothing has a higher failure rate. And yet, no case is more important. Child victims deserve our best efforts as investigators. Don't ignore them. Don't muddle through. Get the best training available so you are ready when the next child is harmed in your community.

Learn About:

- Multidisciplinary Teams
- Injury interpretation
- Search warrants and affidavits
- Interviews
- Much more!

November 6-7, 2025

Hosted by:

El Dorado Police Department

201 E. Central Ave.

El Dorado, KS 67042

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16 TRAINING HOURS



CURRICULUM

- **Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs)**
 - Learn the value and process of working abuse cases with a team that includes DCF, medical professionals, advocates, and more.
- **Interviews**
 - Victims, witnesses, suspects, others: Interviews are the most valuable evidence in abuse investigations.
 - Learn how to use evidence in an interrogation effectively.
- **Delayed Disclosures**
 - Some of the most challenging cases are sexual abuse incidents that occurred years before the report. Learn strategies to charge perpetrators of historic sexual abuse.
- **Corroboration**
 - Start with a statement, then search for ways to back it up. This course will examine numerous ways to find corroborative evidence.
- **Search Warrants**
 - Abuse cases have two scene types: the location and the person.
 - Learn the verbiage and PC needs for each type of warrant.
- **Critical Thinking**
 - Strategize approaches to abuse scenarios with your team.
 - Red Team: challenge your assumptions, cover every aspect of an investigation.
- **Court Testimony**
 - Get real-world advice on how to prepare and answer questions on the stand.
- **Vicarious Trauma**
 - Discuss the impact of abuse cases on the investigator's mental health, and discover new ways to thrive.





Jon Gould

INSTRUCTOR



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MY BACKGROUND

I never planned to become a cop, but now I cannot imagine leaving. After wandering between jobs in my early 20s, I finally returned to my blue-blood roots and joined an urban police department, where I knew I was home. Sixteen years later, I'm in my ideal position: a detective in the Exploited and Missing Child Unit (EMCU). Most people, even my colleagues in the department, struggle to understand the appeal of this role. In fact, many are repulsed by it, unable to stomach the subject matter or sit across an interview table from a predator. But I relish these interviews above all else. Long ago, I embraced the notion that 99% of what we do as law enforcement officers is communicate with other human beings. If we can master that skill, we will have mastered our jobs.

EMCU is, by far, the most interview-heavy position in my department. Often, our cases have little or no physical evidence, so the interviews must serve as that evidence if we are to have any hope of prosecution. Throughout my years at EMCU, I have conducted thousands of interviews, ranging from forensic examinations with victims to critical conversations with witnesses and parents to high-stakes interrogations with prolific pedophiles. Those interviews have been the central evidence of every kind of abuse case imaginable, and many I couldn't previously imagine.

My formal education reflects my dual interests in communication and policing; I hold a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in criminal justice. I regularly contribute articles to Project Alethia, an organization dedicated to spreading science-based interviewing principles as widely as possible. I am a frequent speaker and workshop leader on topics such as interviewing and interrogation, child abuse investigations, and behavioral threat assessments to a variety of groups, including law enforcement, school safety officials, court service officers, citizens' police academies, police recruits, and more.

I am passionate about keeping kids safe, and I hope you gain something valuable and practical from this training. I hope it gives you the confidence and skills you need to successfully investigate these most challenging cases.

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