

WORKSHOP DIRECTORY PAGE

TITLE: Preparing the Child Witness in Sexual Abuse Cases

COMP. #: 203-11

NO. HRS: 6

COMPETENCY:

203-11 The Child Welfare Professional understands the role and responsibility of other disciplines in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of abuse and neglect, and can work jointly with these practitioners.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the role of children in the legal system and the courtroom;
- Define the different and sometimes conflicting professional viewpoints among social services, law enforcement, and prosecutors regarding the prosecution of child sexual abuse, and the necessity for interdisciplinary teamwork in order to enhance child witness competence;
- Describe the definitions for credibility and competence;
- Identify children's competence at various developmental stages and about factors such as trauma-induced mental disorders that may interfere with child witness competence;
- Demonstrate approaches and techniques to prepare children for court, including the necessity to work with parents or other caregivers;
- Demonstrate and practice stress management techniques for children; and
- Identify existing resources for court educators, child witnesses and their parents, including court schools models, workbooks, and developmental guidelines for forensic interviewers.

CALENDAR SUMMARY: This workshop is designed to assist Child Welfare Professionals in understanding the role of children in the legal system and in the courtroom. The Child Welfare Professionals will hear a variety of viewpoints in regards to child witnesses, become aware of resources, and learn techniques, which can be used when preparing children for court, such as stress management.