

The Missouri Office of Prosecution Services will be hosting a free webinar on

Friday, September 18, 1 PM to 2:30 PM

Conducting and Defending a Pandemic-Era Forensic Interview

Former prosecutor and former director of NDAA's National Center on the Prosecution of Child Abuse, Victor Vieth is now the Director of Education and Research of the Zero Abuse Project. In this webinar, Victor will discuss the new challenges faced by our MDTs. As the COVID-19 pandemic produces quarantines, school closures, and limited interactions between children and mandated reporters, prosecutors and other members of a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) will likely be confronted with two challenges. First, there will likely be an increase in child abuse cases. Second, adjustments to forensic interviews will eventually result in defense attorneys and defense experts challenging the method in which the forensic interview was conducted. Given these challenges, prosecutors should be proactive in advising the MDT to take steps in conducting pandemic-era forensic interviews in a manner that will help the prosecutor to defend the practice should the interview be challenged in court either in an effort to exclude the interview from evidence as being unreliable or simply as a new avenue to cross-examining the interviewer or the child victim.

The webinar will qualify for up to 1.8 hours CLE, POST and 210 credit is pending.

FYI - It is best to use headphones or external speakers for the webinar as the audio tends to be clearer.

To register, please go to:

Registration URL

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5778900482934486797>

You may need to cut and paste this link into your browser.

Please be sure to use your official/ agency email address to register. If you are law enforcement and do not have a secure email address, please let me know.

PLEASE NOTE Persons needing special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should notify MOPS at catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov or (573) 644-2409 on or before **September 1, 2020**.

The webinar is free of charge to prosecutors, prosecution office staff, law enforcement officers, victim advocates, adult protective services, department of mental health, probation officers, juvenile officers, juvenile court staff attorneys, children's division, medical professionals and children's advocacy center staff. **All other similarly allied professionals must obtain prior approval from webinar organizers.** Please contact catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov if you are not a member of one of the above listed professions.

Once we have approved your registration, the program will send you a confirmation email with the link to go to on the day of the webinar. Please be sure to retain this email. Please be specific as to your profession and agency in your webinar registration so that we can quickly approve your link.

Anyone needing credit for this webinar please note that there are specific instructions for receiving training certification for this webinar. **If you need training certification from us for this webinar, you will be required to answer all polls during the webinar. These polls are most commonly silent polls so as not to interrupt the speaker during the presentation. Attendees must be watching at all times in order to answer the polls.** If all polls are not answered, we cannot provide you with a certificate. Please be sure to answer all polls in order to get certification.

PLEASE NOTE: The poll feature required for training certification does not always work reliably on iPhones, iPads, Androids, or other miscellaneous smartphone or tablet devices when accessing the website from the device's browser. Please access the webinar via a computer in order for the polls to work properly. Please make sure to contact the webinar organizers immediately after the poll if there is any doubt that the poll feature is working for you, so we can count you as present and provide you with credit. It is best to view the webinar via computer.

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar. In order to make sure you are able to log on, please register at least 72 hours in advance of the webinar. **If you do not receive a confirmation email, it has likely gone to your Spam or Junk Mail folder. Please add Catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov to your list of safe addresses.**

If you need assistance, please contact Catherine Vannier at catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov

Additionally, you will receive a handout of the PowerPoint PDF file the day of the webinar. If you do not receive the handouts in this time frame, it has likely gone to your Spam or Junk Mail folder. Please add catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov to your list of safe addresses.

It is advised that you log on a few minutes early, if possible, in case you have problems with the link or the technology.