

Missouri Office of Prosecution Services,
Jefferson College Law Enforcement Academy,
&
Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri
present



Talking to Kids About Abuse: Tips for Investigators and Other MDT Members

Thursday, November 14, 2024
9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Jefferson College Law Enforcement Academy
1687 Missouri State Road
Arnold, MO 63010

CLE, POST, and
210 approved for
5.5 hours

Training is free of charge to law enforcement, Children's Division, prosecutors, medical professionals, mental health professionals, school staff, juvenile office staff, and other multidisciplinary team members. If you are not in one of these professions but feel this training would be beneficial to your work with children, please contact Kayla Womble at Kayla.Womble@prosecutors.mo.gov for approval prior to registering.

Talking to Kids About Abuse

Are you a mandated reporter or child abuse investigator? Does your job involve speaking with children? Are there instances in your job where you may have to talk to a child about abuse? The way we speak to children during situations such as these can make or break a potential criminal case against a child's abuser. Research into the way we speak to children throughout the course of an investigation has grown exponentially over recent years. Missouri Office of Prosecution Services and the Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri invite you to join Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor Kayla Womble and forensic interviewer Samantha Harris as they discuss the most trauma-informed way to take a child's disclosure of abuse and/or initiate a conversation with a child about suspected abuse.

This training will be CLE, POST, and 210 certified for 5.5 hours continuing education credit.

To register, please copy and paste this link into your browser:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/hexad5x/lp/0a4738d8-3827-452d-9364-326984ef8599>

About the Presenters

Kayla Womble is the Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor for the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services. Kayla has spent the previous years prosecuting in both rural and urban jurisdictions, and was most recently prosecuting for the Special Victims Unit in St. Louis City prior to joining MOPS. She has prosecuted all crimes of physical and sexual violence with a special emphasis on crimes against children. As the Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor, Kayla provides training to prosecutors, investigators, and all other MDT members who are involved in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against children. She serves as special assistant prosecutor or special prosecutor throughout the state on cases involving crimes against children. As the Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor, she also sits on several other groups and committees, acting as a liaison between prosecutors and our allied professionals.

Samantha Harris graduated from William Woods University in 2016 with a Bachelors in Social Work. She started at the juvenile detention center in Farmington after she graduated college and then went to BJC Behavioral Health to be a case worker for youth with mental health diagnoses. After seeing the work done at the Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri, she knew that's where she wanted to be. She started in 2020 as a Family Advocate providing resources for the non-offending caregivers, providing case updates and general follow up, and attending court with families. When an opening for a Forensic Interviewer became available in December 2023, she took the leap and switched paths to become a forensic interviewer.