

FORENSIC INTERVIEWING OF CHILDREN

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This training is **required** by MI law.
It is designed to be interactive.
It also helps CAC's receive
funding and allows you to be
able to interview at a CAC.

Where does it say I **HAVE** to use the protocol?

I'm glad you asked!

Page 23 of MCL 722.628 within the CPL states:

In each county, the prosecuting attorney and the department shall develop and establish procedures for involving law enforcement officials as provided in this section. In each county, the prosecuting attorney and the department shall adopt and implement standard child abuse and neglect investigation and interview protocols using as a model the protocols developed by the GTF on children's justice as published in DHHS Publication 779 (04/11), or an updated version.

How many of you are familiar with your county's
protocol?

The MDT...

History

- Michigan's FI protocol was developed in 1996 by child abuse professionals who work in the field of development, interviewing and linguistics.
- Michigan's protocol is research and evidence based and is updated every 5 years to stay current and user friendly
- Dr. Deb Poole is the author and is a world known expert in the field of child linguistics and development

How did we get the protocol?

- ⊗ In 1992 the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice was created pursuant to federal legislation to respond to the tremendous challenges involved in the handling of child abuse particularly child sexual abuse cases in Michigan.
- ⊗ In 1993 the Task Force published FIA publication 794, A Model Child Abuse Protocol – Coordinated Investigative Team Approach.
- ⊗ In 1996, the DHS initiated the development of a forensic interviewing protocol by establishing a committee within DHS and enlisting 9 county DHS offices to participate as pilot counties in testing the protocol.

- ⊗ 1996-1998, DHS and the GTF worked with Dr. Debra Poole in developing and implementing a protocol that would improve the interviewing techniques of all professionals involved in the investigation of child abuse in MI.
- ⊗ In 1998, the CPL was amended to require each county to implement a standard child abuse and neglect investigation and interview protocol using as a model the protocols developed by the GTF.
- ⊗ In 2003, a team convened to review and update the current protocol. The FI protocol revision committee edited sections for clarity, improved the examples and added Quick Guides.
- ⊗ In 2009 the committee again met to improve the quality of the protocol using current research and suggestions received by professionals that use the protocol on a regular basis.
- ⊗ In 2017 the protocol was again updated to keep up with science and research.

Goal of a Forensic Interview

To provide more structure to make it easier for interviewers to do a good job and to help them avoid mistakes.

Places the protocol is used...

What does research show?

Children err in reporting events not because their memories are so bad, but because their memories are so good. They readily absorb general knowledge both within interview settings and outside interview settings. Remembering and monitoring the source of information, however, is largely irrelevant to the task of developing during the early years of life.