

**COURSE NAME.** Investigation and Assessment of Allegations of Child Abuse in Child Custody Disputes

**DURATION.-** 2 days

**CLASS SIZE..** 24 (12 police and 12 child protection workers/social workers)

**CANDIDATES:** Police officers and social workers engaged in investigations involving child abuse.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION,1** This course provides knowledge and skill training regarding the difficult task of assessing allegations of child abuse made in the context of child custody disputes. The course will review current research findings and will examine models for assessing the validity of abuse allegations in child custody disputes and in investigation protocol designed for use in such cases.

**STANDARDS:•**

- **full** attendance is mandatory;
- group assignments with peer and facilitator feedback.

**TOPICS:**

- nature and extent of child abuse allegations in child custody disputes;
- validity of allegations made in child custody disputes;
- sources and characteristics of false allegations;
- investigation protocol for use in child custody disputes;
- review and analysis of models for assessing the validity of children's statements;
- assessing the validity of adult complaint statements.

**PREREQUISITES:** Must have completed the Child Sexual Abuse: Investigation and Assessment Course or equivalent.

**DRESS:** Business attire and casual.

**EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:** pens, pencils.

**SPECIAL NOTES:** This course is offered in partnership with the Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Preference will be given to police officers who register with a social worker from their jurisdiction. These courses are provided free to police officers. Child protection and other candidates will be assessed a fee set by the Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Course may be offered at Ontario Police College and other locations around Ontario. Accommodation and meals will be provided to police and child protection candidates for courses held at the Ontario Police College. For the other locations, accommodations, meals and travel expenses are the responsibility of the sponsoring agency.