ATIXA Interviewing Minors
Seminar Agenda

Description:
Many Title IX professionals struggle with the difficult task of how to effectively and responsibly interview minors who may be involved in Title IX investigations as parties or witnesses. Title IX investigators must be able to competently communicate with a child, consistent with the child’s linguistic and developmental abilities. Children may also struggle to fully express their experiences in a concrete manner, especially to an unfamiliar adult. Parents or guardians often insist on being present, and sometimes, state law requires their permission to interview a minor.

The Best Practices for Interviewing Minors Seminar will share best practices for interview techniques and tools to support environments where children can safely share their experiences during an investigation. Faculty members will share suggestions for interview question wording, techniques to discuss sensitive or graphic behaviors, selecting an appropriate setting, the role of advisors and/or parents/guardians, and giving clear instructions prior to beginning an interview. Participants will also have an opportunity to critique recorded interviews and discuss their feedback with the group.

Learning Outcomes:
After completing this seminar, participants will be able to…
- Develop age-appropriate interview questions for minors
- Understand the role of a parent/guardian during the interview process
- Describe the three phases of a forensic interview and what takes place during each phase
- Explain considerations for determining who conducts an interview with a minor
- Provide clear instructions to a minor prior to beginning an investigation interview

Course Topics

Interview Planning
- Who Should Conduct the Interview?
- Parent/Guardian Involvement
- Setting
- Timing and Duration
- Prepping Instructions
Forensic Interview Model
- Rapport-Building Phase
- Substantive Phase
- Closure Phase

Interview Techniques and Tools
- General Recommendations
- Instructions
- Truthfulness Discussion
- Age and Development-Level-Appropriate Questions
- Early Elementary
- Older Elementary
- Middle and High School
- Interview Aids
- Cultural Competency

Investigation Challenges and Pitfalls
- Reluctance to Disclose
- Language Differences
- Cognitive Disabilities
- Investigator Age & Experience Bias
- Suggestibility

Interview Critiques
- Recorded Interview Samples
- Group Discussion

Note: Seminars do not include a standard break. Participants are welcome to eat and/or drink during the seminar and step away for other needs as necessary. Seminar start and end times for in-person events are determined by the host site. All virtual seminars take place from 12:00 – 2:00 PM ET unless otherwise specified.