

**National Children's Advocacy Center**  
**Forensic Evaluation Training:**  
**An Extended Assessment Model When Abuse is Suspected**  
**August 20-22, 2007 ♦ CACTX Conference Center - Austin, Texas**  
Hosted By: Children's Advocacy Centers™ of Texas, Inc.

**Course Overview:**

Forensic Evaluation training is designed for graduate level mental health clinicians who are interested in conducting extended forensic evaluations of children when sexual abuse is suspected. This training is appropriate for both clinicians with some experience and those just beginning this type of work. It is not designed for front line investigative interviewers who conduct one-time interviews.

The NCAC Forensic Evaluation model was developed for children who are unable to give clear information at the initial investigative interview. A Forensic Evaluation is a follow-up to the initial interview for the specific subset of children for whom initial results are unclear. By design, the model is conducted over six sessions, one with the non-offending caregiver and five with the child. It includes forensic assessment for possible sexual abuse and clinical assessment for any treatment needs. The evaluation lays a foundation for treatment, if needed, following the evaluation.

Results of a pilot study of this model were published in the August 1999 issue of *Child Maltreatment* and a second article can be found in the August 2001 issue of the same journal. The model was shown to be effective in obtaining credible statements from children, and the evaluations were supported in the legal arena. The major components of the training will include:

- Rapport-building and assessing the developmental level of the child
- Social, behavioral and clinical assessment of the child
- Forensically sound interviewing techniques

**Objective:**

Our goal for this training is to provide each attendee with new knowledge and skills to assist them in their daily job. In addition, we wish for attendees to depart with new knowledge of colleagues who can be sources of ongoing support in the important work that is done with children and families in their respective communities.

**Speaker:**

**Linda Cordisco Steele, M.Ed., LPC** - Linda is Curriculum Chair and Senior Trainer for the National Children's Advocacy Center's Child Forensic Interviewing Programs. Linda has previously served as Clinical Director and as a forensic interviewer for three Children's Advocacy Centers: the Prescott House CAC in Birmingham, Alabama; the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Alabama; and The Safehouse in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Linda currently conducts forensic interviews at the CAC of the Bluegrass located in Lexington, Kentucky. Linda has over twenty years of experience in therapy and advocacy work with victims and extensive training experience regionally and nationally. Linda received her Masters in Education from the University of Pittsburgh and is a Licensed Professional Counselor.

**Extended Forensic Assessment**  
**CACTX Conference Center, Austin, Texas**  
**August 20-22, 2007 • 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. All Days**

**Sample Agenda**

**DAY ONE - AUGUST 20, 2007**

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.	WELCOMING REMARKS, INTRODUCTIONS, & COURSE OVERVIEW
10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	ORIENTATION TO THE FORENSIC EVALUATION PROCESS
11:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	BALANCING CLINICAL AND FORENSIC ROLES
12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.	LUNCH
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.	FORENSIC QUESTIONING OF CHILDREN
3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	NON-OFFENDING CAREGIVER PERSPECTIVE

**DAY TWO - AUGUST 21, 2007**

9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.	NON-OFFENDING CAREGIVER INTERVIEW
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES / ISSUES AND ASSESSMENT
12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.	LUNCH
1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.	PSYCHOSOCIAL AND TRAUMA ASSESSMENT
2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

**DAY THREE – AUGUST 22, 2007**

9:00 A.M. –10:00 A.M.	ISSUES AND ANSWERS
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	CASE SCENARIO BREAK-OUTS
12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.	LUNCH
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.	WELLNESS
2:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.	DISCLOSURE CREDIBILITY
2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	EVALUATION OUTCOMES / SHARING OUTCOMES