



INITIAL CHILD INTERVIEW TRAINING

**CHILD WELFARE
MODULE
WORKBOOK**

**A WORKBOOK DEDICATED TO
HELPING YOU UNDERSTAND
ICIT: CHILD WELFARE MODULE**

[CIRINC.ORG/ICIT](https://cirinc.org/icit)

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Initial Child Interview Training (ICIT) aims to train first responders on trauma-informed procedures for gathering minimal facts information in a child abuse case. Participants will learn how to avoid conflicting statements that may result from ineffective interviewing or situational factors beyond the interviewer's control.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After finishing this course, participants will be able to:

- Summarize five considerations for a minimal facts interview
- Describe how a minimal facts interview fits into a coordinated, multi-disciplinary investigation
- List three trauma-informed practices that can be employed in a minimal facts interview
- Recite at least three benefits of referring a child to a Child Advocacy Center/Multi-disciplinary Interview Center for a forensic interview

COURSE TERMS & DEFINITIONS

- **Victim:** We use the term “victim” to refer to the child who is the subject of the child abuse investigation; Typically in child welfare, we refer to the child as the “child,” or “minor” or “client.”
 - “Victim” is a criminal justice term, the term law enforcement uses in their child abuse investigations, but it is also the terminology utilized on the Suspected Child Abuse Report, or SCAR.
- **Suspect:** a criminal justice term and refers to the person who, as the term implies, is the suspect in a child maltreatment investigation. This term also appears on the SCAR.
- **Jurisdiction:** The initial response to child maltreatment often involves collaboration and joint investigation with law enforcement. In child welfare, the “jurisdiction” for the case is generally determined based on where the mother resides. In law enforcement, “jurisdiction” is determined based on where the alleged crime occurred.
 - For child welfare workers, this may mean working with a law enforcement agency within your county, but it may mean working across counties or even across states. Determining where a reported incident of child abuse happened is one of the key minimal facts that need to be determined in an Initial child abuse response.
- **Minimal Facts Interview (aka Initial Child Interview):** Child Welfare workers conduct many different types of interviews throughout the life of a child welfare case. The terms “Initial Child Interview” or “Minimal Facts Interview,” are used interchangeably throughout this course, to refer to the initial, brief, fact-gathering interview that commences after a suspicion of abuse has been reported to the Child Welfare hotline, screened in, and assigned to an Emergency Response Social Worker.
 - In your county, these interviews may also be called: Initial Contact Interviews, First Responder Interviews or Joint Response interviews.
- **Externally Derived Information:** information introduced into the interview that the child has not mentioned
- **Cognitive Development:** a person’s acquisition of the ability to form concepts and reason about various ideas
- **Preoperational stage:** runs from about ages two to seven (this can fluctuate depending on the child).
- **Suggestibility:** refers to the degree to which encoding, storage, retrieval and reporting of events can be influenced by external factors.
 - In the context of a child interview, it refers to the concern that interviewer behaviors could influence a child’s report.

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COMMON ACRONYMS

- **MDT:** Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT); members include law enforcement, child welfare services, victims advocates, medical and mental health professionals, district attorney's office, and forensic interviewers trained in allegations of child abuse.
- **CACs:** Child advocacy centers. Also referred to as a Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center. Serves as center location for collaboration of MDT.
- **MDIC:** Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center (see above).
- **SCAR:** Suspected Child Abuse Report
- **SART:** Sexual Assault Response Team Examination
- **LE:** Law Enforcement
- **CW:** Child Welfare
- **MR:** Mandated Reporter

CHARTS

DIFFERENT TYPES OF INTERVIEWS CHART

INTERVIEW TYPE				TIMEFRAME
Initial Child Interview or Minimal Facts Interview	Establish MINIMAL FACTS only to determine whether a crime may have occurred and determine immediate safety and protective concerns. A Minimal Facts Interview of a child may not be needed if the minimal facts can be gathered from an informed adult.	First responders: Patrol officer or Emergency Response Social Worker. Joint response is ideal to reduce duplicative interviews.	Varies; if urgent, could be at the scene of a reported crime	Urgent
Investigative Interview	More complete fact-gathering interview of a child, if the case will likely not be referred for a full MDT Forensic Interview. Per local county protocols.	Investigators: Emergency Response Social Worker or Detective. Joint response is ideal to reduce duplicative interviews.	Varies; should be a safe, neutral location	Non-urgent; planned to be as soon as possible after a report of suspected abuse
Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) or Forensic Interview	Gather detailed information about incidents of alleged child maltreatment while increasing the amount of information a child can provide in the least traumatic and suggestible manner. Information gathered is used by the MDT to assess for safety and further manage the case.	Forensic Interview Specialist, specially trained to interview all ages of children and adolescents and developmentally delayed adults.	Child Advocacy Center or other MDT child- friendly setting with participation of MDT	Non-urgent; planned to be as soon as possible after a report of suspected abuse

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RESOURCES

A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: THE ROLE OF THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Cramer, R. E. (1986). A Community Approach to Child Sexual Abuse:
The Role of the Office of the District Attorney.



[Access Here](#)

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: PREVENTING CONTINUED VICTIMIZATION BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED AGENCIES

Martin, M. J. (1992, July). Child Sexual Abuse: Preventing Continued
Victimization by the Criminal Justice System and Associated Agencies.



[Access Here](#)

CHILDREN'S REACTIONS TO SEX ABUSE INVESTIGATION AND LITIGATION

Tedesco, J. F., & Schnell, S. V. (1987). Children's Reactions to Sex
Abuse Investigation and Litigation. Child Abuse & Neglect.



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RESOURCES CONTINUED

DEVELOPMENT OF TEMPORAL-RECONSTRUCTIVE ABILITIES

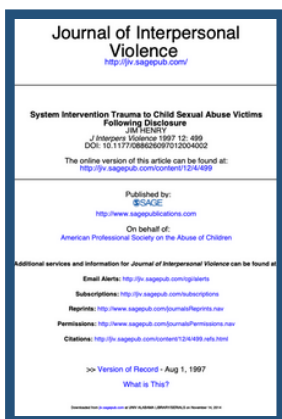
Friedman and Lyon (2005). Development of Temporal-Reconstructive Abilities. *Child Development*, November/December 2005, Volume 76, Number 6, pp. 1202-1216.



[Access Here](#) 

JOURNAL OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE: SYSTEM INTERVENTION TRAUMA TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS FOLLOWING DISCLOSURE

HENRY, J. (1997). System intervention trauma to child sexual abuse victims following disclosure. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 12(4), 499-512. <https://doi.org/10.1177/088626097012004002>



[Access Here](#) 

JOURNAL OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE: MALTREATED CHILDREN'S ABILITY TO MAKE TEMPORAL JUDGEMENTS USING A RECURRING LANDMARK EVENT

McWilliams, K., Lyon, T.D., & Quas, J.A. (2019). Maltreated children's ability to make temporal judgments using a recurring landmark event. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 34, 873-883.



[Access Here](#) 

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RESOURCES CONTINUED

MULTIPLE AND REPEATED INTERVIEWS OF CHILDREN - CONDUCTING FOLLOW-UP AND EXTENDED FORENSIC INTERVIEWS: A BIBLIOGRAPHY

National Children's Advocacy Center. (2022, June). Multiple and Repeated Interviews of Children- Conducting Follow-Up and Extended Forensic Interviews: A Bibliography. Huntsville, AL: Author



Access Here



REPEATED INTERVIEWING: A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE RISK AND POTENTIAL BENEFITS

La Rooy, D., Lamb, M. E., & Pipe, M-E. (2008). "Repeated Interviewing: A critical evaluation of the risks and potential benefits. In K. Kuehnle & M. Connell (Eds.) Child Sexual Abuse: Research, Evaluation, and Testimony for the Courts. Wiley.



Access Here



THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY AS A MOBILIZER IN A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Robert E. Cramer Jr., The District Attorney as a Mobilizer in a Community Approach to Child Sexual Abuse, 40 U. Miami L. Rev. 209 (1985) Available at: <https://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr/vol40/iss1/11>



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RESOURCES CONTINUED

THE RETRAUMATIZATION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: THE SECOND INSULT

Newgent, R. A., Fender-Scarr, L. K., & Bromley, J. L. (n.d.). PDF.
Trauma & Loss: Research & Interventions.



Access Here 

JIMMY KIMMEL LIE DETECTIVE #1

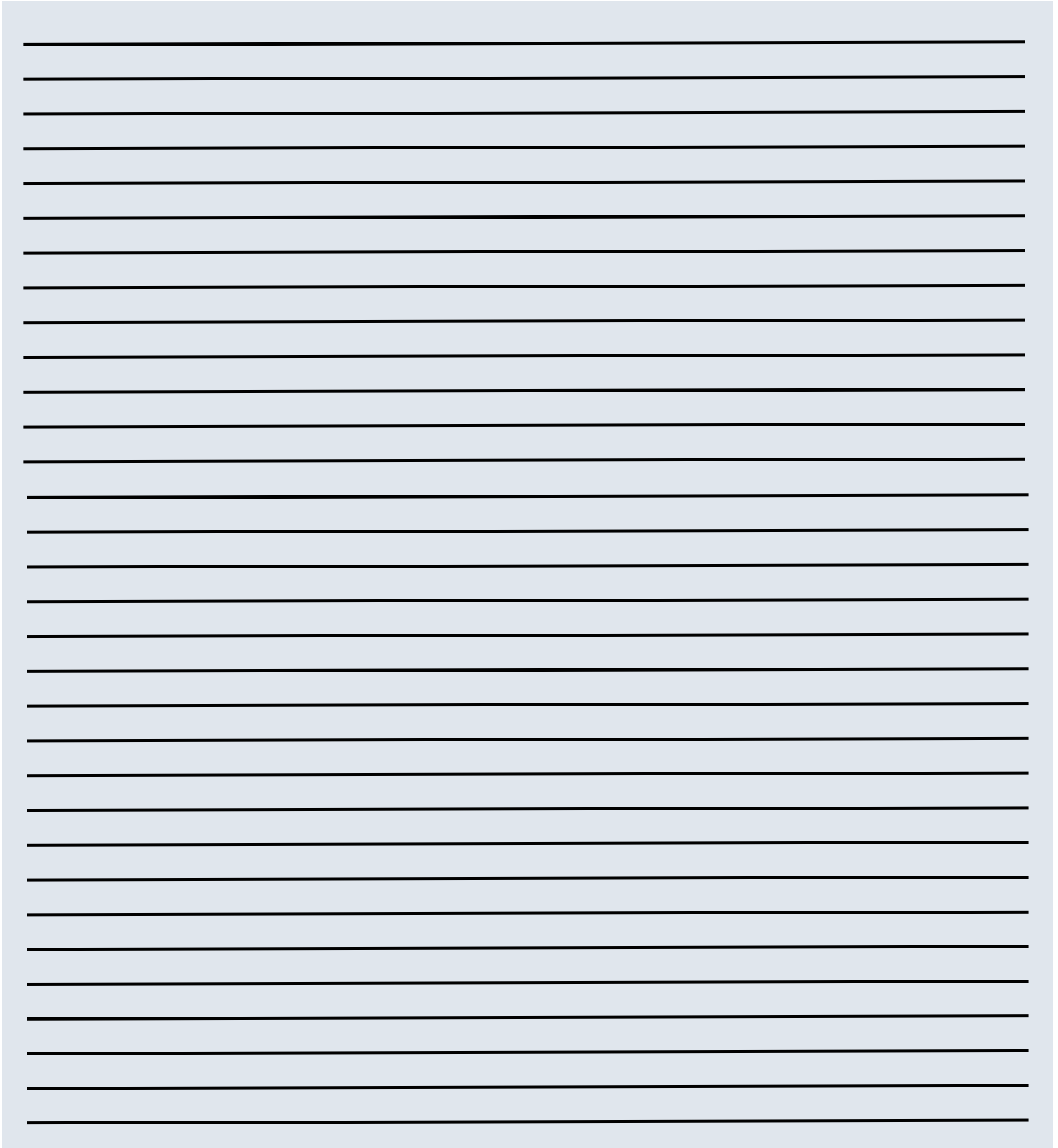
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<https://youtu.be/KPgpRw9tiuM?si=wAiXhXrtGjYAWpk>.



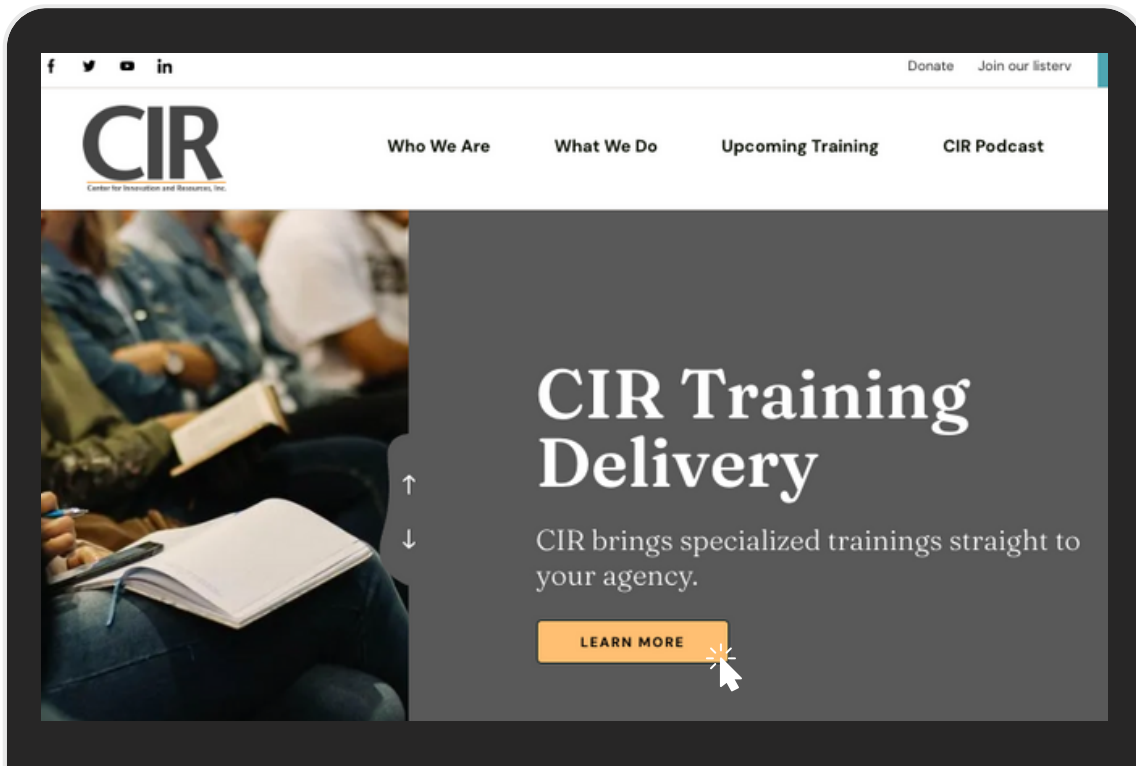
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SELF-REFLECTION

Take a moment to reflect and note how you intend to improve your interview techniques. What will you ask your county or CAC? What questions will help you gain information and minimize trauma in a minimal facts investigation?



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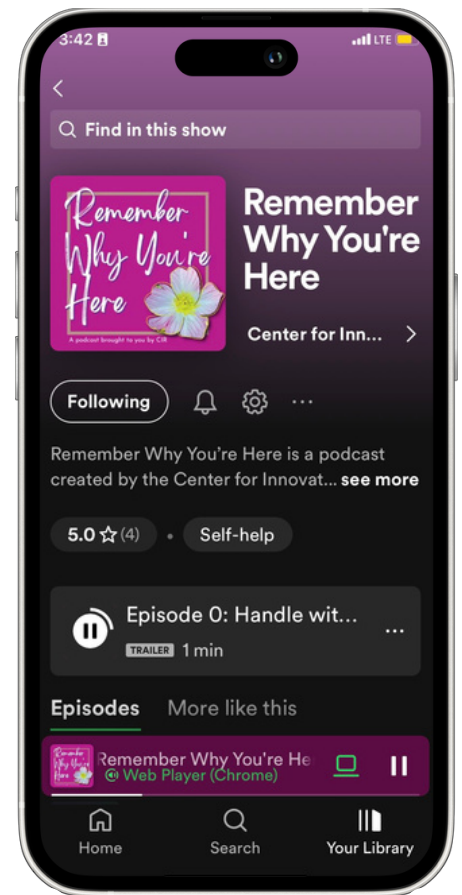
FOLLOW CIR!

Remember Why You're Here

A podcast brought to you by CIR, where we host conversations with experts in the field about what started their journey to do work around abuse and healing.

This podcast journey started at the beginning of 2023 and is rooted in our desire to have deeper dialogue with the trainers, experts, and our co-workers who are in both the field and on the edges of the field.

Listen to *Remember Why You're Here* on Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music!



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A background image showing several hands of different skin tones holding and fitting together wooden puzzle pieces. The puzzle pieces are light-colored wood and are arranged in a circular pattern, symbolizing teamwork and collaboration.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank-you to the individuals who helped contribute to the development of the Initial Child Interview Training

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THANK YOU



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