



Law Enforcement Training Advisory Commission

840 S. Spring Street, Suite B • Springfield, IL 62704

Phone (217) 726-7014 • Fax (217) 726-7833 • Email letac@mtu10.com • Website www.letac.org

Bruce Liebe, Director

Investigations of Child Physical Abuse and Death

February 12, 2024

8:00am to 4:00pm

Richland Community College (NSEC Bldg.)

1 Community College Drive

Decatur, IL

This Course Has Been Approved for the Following Mandates: Human Rights(0.50hrs), Officer Wellness/Mental Health (0.50hrs), Procedural Justice(0.50hrs), Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect(4.00hrs.) and Lead Homicide Investigator (8.00hrs)

Instructor: Det. Jennifer Hillgoth is a Detective in the Bureau of Investigations with Auroa Police Department. She is a Lead Homicide Investigator assigned to investigations of infant and child deaths, child physical abuse, child neglect, child endangerment and sex crimes against children. Detective Hillgoth also conducts child forensic interviews and participates in peer review. She also conducts victim, witness, and suspect interviews; prepares, and executes both subpoenas and search warrants, handles juvenile intakes, referrals, and juvenile diversions. She coordinates and makes recommendations with child abuse physicians, DCFS child protections specialists and Assistant States Attorney's for immediate and urgent child protection plans and investigations. Detective Hillgoth has her bachelor's degree where she majored in Criminal Justice and Minored in Psychology.

Course: Provide officers guidance regarding their response to child abuse and child death investigations while appreciating the unique characteristics involving a child's disclosure, discuss components of these crimes that officers can recognize upon their responses and consider best practices when documenting such information. This 8-hour session is designed to take the medical aspects of child abuse into an educational discussion relatable to law enforcement and interviewers so they better understand how this information applies to their cases.

Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board Mobile Team Unit #10

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COURSE GOALS: The goals of this course are as follows:

- Officers can recognize and distinguish offenses of child maltreatment.
- Officers can appreciate how responses may appear and the unique characteristics of crimes against children, including challenges and barriers specific to child victims.
- Dispel common myths and outdated practices with physical abuse.
- Recognize the importance of trauma informed and victim centered responses.
- Discern how injuries may or may not be present.
- Understand the complexities involved with evidence in physical abuse and death investigations.
- Learn how to overcome challenges these types of crimes present.
- Demonstrate how to identify and utilize the evidence to interpret who and what caused a child's injuries and/or death.
- Explore the necessary MDT investigative process needed to determine mechanisms behind serious abusive injuries and death investigations.
- Apply medical aspects of child maltreatment to a comprehensive MDT investigation of child abuse and/or death.

Non-Member Tuition: \$80.00 Non-Member tuition shall apply to civilians, officers from State/Federal agencies, and officers from Local Law Enforcement agencies which are not a member of any MTU. Tuition will be invoiced to departments upon course completion. If a pre-registered student from a Non-Member agency fails to attend training, and the agency fails to provide advance notice within 7 days of the start date of that class, the agency will be invoiced the entire amount of the student's tuition.

To Register: Email registration to register@letac.org. You may also fill out and submit our online registration form through the website at www.letac.org or call 217-726-7014 to register by phone (be sure to include all pertinent information). **MTU#10 Law Enforcement members who are under the mandate requirements will be given priority on state mandated courses and then MTU#10 local members. If it is not a mandated course, all MTU# 10 local members will be given registration preference until seven days prior to the date of class. After that date, registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis, regardless of MTU status. *We cannot accept registrations from individual officers. All registrations must go through your Chief, Sheriff, or department training office, even if you are attending class on your own time.***

Cancellation: If a class must be canceled for any reason, every effort will be made to do so at least 2 weeks before the class is scheduled to begin. However, there are circumstances where last minute cancellation is out of our control. All officers who have been registered for training will be contacted at the email address given at registration, so please be sure to provide an email address which is checked often.

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