

Trauma Informed Response to Sexual Assault/Abuse Overview

- [Description](#)
- [Objectives](#)
- [Topics](#)
- [Resources](#)

Description

The goal of this course is to familiarize officers with the complexities of sexual assault investigations, including: the misperceptions about sexual assault victims and offenders which are able to report; how trauma impacts the manner in which victims are able to report; how best to support sexual assault victims during their encounter with law enforcement and the criminal justice system; and how to focus on offender behaviors and hold offenders accountable.

This course reviews several effective techniques for sexual assault/abuse investigations, while considering the trauma/impact the crime has on the victim. Several videos have been included in the module to help officers understand the trauma often associated with sexual assault and, how this trauma influences investigations.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define the terms associated with sexual assault investigations.
2. Recognize the prevalence of sexual assault in Illinois.
3. Recognize special issues in sexual assault investigations.
4. Recognize common myths and facts about sexual assault.
5. Explain the procedures involved in conducting a sexual assault investigation.
 - Recognize the impact of trauma on sexual assault victims.
 - Identify trauma-informed interview techniques.
 - Identify, collect, and preserve chain of custody of sexual assault evidence.
 - Identify appropriate suspect interrogation techniques.
 - Identify sex offender behavior and the prevalence of the "undetected rapist."

Topics

Lessons

Lesson 1: Introduction: Defining Sexual Assault and Prevalence

Lesson 2: Societal Perceptions of Sexual Assault/Abuse

Lesson 3: Neurobiology of Trauma

Lesson 4: Trauma Informed Interview Techniques

Lesson 5: Suspect Investigation and Interrogation

Lesson 6: Report Writing

Lesson 7: Conclusion