

Executive Summary

This Sexual Abuse training equips APS professionals with the knowledge and skills to recognize, assess, and respond to sexual abuse of older adults and adults with disabilities. The course blends training engagement opportunities to deepen participants' understanding of trauma, disclosure dynamics, and evidence-informed interviewing strategies. By emphasizing trauma-informed, person-directed approaches, the training seeks to reduce barriers to disclosure and promote consistent responses across APS programs.

Participants will learn to define sexual abuse in its many forms, identify signs and symptoms, including indirect or "coded" disclosures, and apply trauma-informed interviewing techniques. The training also guides APS professionals through intervention planning, collaboration with law enforcement and community partners, and the use of supportive resources to enhance client well-being. By the end of the workshop, participants will be prepared to translate these skills into practice, strengthening their ability to deliver services grounded in empathy and respect.

Instructor Led Training

This course was developed to be delivered either in-person or virtually. The following instructional strategies are used: lecture segments; interactive activities/exercises (e.g. small group discussion and case studies); question/answer periods; video demonstrations, PowerPoint slides; participant guide) to assess knowledge and skill acquisition and how these translate into practice while conducting interviews and investigations.

Participants should have access to their participant manual, either in printed form or as a digital copy. For virtual training, they will need a computer with video conferencing capabilities and the ability to connect to the designated virtual platform. Using a headset or earbuds with a microphone, along with a video camera, is strongly encouraged.

Course Requirements

Familiarity with Adult Protective Services program, policies, and procedures.

Intended Audience

Newer APS professionals (line staff, case workers, investigators) who investigate and assess allegations of sexual abuse. Experienced APS professionals and allied partners may benefit from this workshop as well.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to:

- Identify sexual abuse and its various forms.

- Recognize common barriers to reporting and disclosure.
- Demonstrate person-directed strategies and trauma-informed interviewing techniques.
- Utilize intervention strategies to develop service plans that prioritize safety, autonomy, and access to resources.