Hoarding 1- The Basics

APSWI
Adult Protective Services Workforce Innovations

Sooner or later every first responder will encounter a hoarded environment. The sights and smells can be overwhelming and you may not know how to respond. Your reactions to the environment can make all the difference in how the individual reacts to you and if they will comply with your requests. We discuss what Hoarding Disorder is, what causes it and its unique dangers for public officials. This is an introductory class with stories and examples that will help you respond in the real world and achieve a better success rate with the individual.

VIRTUAL EVENT

Date October 27, 2026

Time: 9:00 am – 10:30 am

This course will be conducted remotely through **Zoom**. A link will be sent to the participants a week before training.

Learning Objectives

After completion of this training:

- Attendees will be able to describe Hoarding Disorder, what causes it and what prompts the behaviors.
- Attendees will be able to explain the thought processes of a person with Hoarding Disorder and how to use that to help them succeed in decluttering.
- Attendees will be able to describe what dangers are posed by a hoarded environment, both for the resident and for those entering the home.

SELF-REGISTRATION

Hoarding 1- The Basics Self-Registration Link.

The registration due date for this training is Mon. Oct. 12, 2026

Meet the Trainer

Maria Spetalnik

Maria Spetalnik is a Board Certified Professional Organizer (CPO®) with over 30 years of experience helping others to control their clutter. Her company, Conquer the Clutter, uses a holistic, harm reduction approach with clients. She works with other professionals to help her clients work past the physical, mental and emotional causes of the clutter. Her goal is to teach them to be able to do this for themselves in the future. Maria has taught classes internationally about Chronic Disorganization and Hoarding to the FBI, Police Officers, Sheriffs, Adult Protective Services, Code Compliance Officers, Fire Marshals, Animal Control Officers, EMTs, Social Services Departments, Therapists,

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AUDIENCE

This training is intended for new and experienced Adult Protective Services line staff who interview clients and collaterals, provide risk assessments and develop service plans.

and others. She builds teams of other professionals, such as therapists, to get her clients all the help they need. Her books are all written to give their audiences the information they need to be able to understand and help those that are hoarding to be successful in changing their relationship with their things.

Self-Registration Instructions

- Upon logging in to the Learning Management System, navigate to the Course Catalog to view all available learning activities. Once you have identified the instructor-led training you would like to register for, click on the 3-vertical dots to the right side of the activity and select "REGISTER" from the drop down to open the registration page. Click the "ADD" button to add the class to your "Registration Summary". Next click on the "Register" button located at the bottom right of the screen and click "Submit Form".
- **For further guidance on how to self-register, please visit our guide on how to self-register in classes in our Academy Learning Management System (LMS).
    - Participants who experience technical difficulties with the self-enrollment process can submit a ticket to our Learning Management System team for further assistance.

Virtual Training Protocol

- Download or update the most recent version of Zoom
- Please log in 5 to 10 minutes prior to the workshop to allow for troubleshooting, if needed
- It is highly recommended to use a headset for this workshop
- Use "Computer Audio" for optimal experience
- If you have access to a functioning camera, we ask that you turn it on for the full duration of the workshop as it offers a more conducive learning experience
- If you are planning to log on to the training using two separate devices (one for audio, one for video), please be sure to mute one of the devices to prevent any audio feedback
- Please be sure your screen name is your first and last name in Zoom. Learners who are not able to identify themselves within the first 15 minutes of training, and remain unresponsive after the moderator has attempted to make contact via chat or verbally multiple times will need to be removed from the training session
- Please refer to the "Virtual Learning Tips" handout for additional information on how to update your Zoom screen name, etc.

ADA

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