

# FINDING WORDS/CHILD FIRST/ - NEW JERSEY

## Central MDT Training Application

<b>Date:</b> October 24th - 28th, 2022	<b>Location:</b> Department of Children and Families Child Welfare Training Academy: 30 Van Dyke Ave, New Brunswick NJ 08901
<b>Deadline:</b> October 3rd, 2022	

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Presented by *CHILD FIRST/FINDING WORDS—NEW JERSEY*, an initiative of the Zero Abuse Project’s Child Protection Training Center and the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect in conjunction with New Jersey Children’s Alliance.

*FINDING WORDS* can be difficult for a child victimized by abuse. Conflicting emotions of fear and love for the perpetrator may cause a child to be reluctant to reveal abuse. If a child tries to speak of abuse, he or she may lack the verbal skills to adequately communicate the event to an adult.

*FINDING WORDS* can be difficult for a police officer, social worker or prosecutor who must speak to a child about abuse. In order to communicate competently with a child, the interviewer must be able to speak in a manner consistent with the child’s linguistic and developmental abilities.

*FINDING WORDS* can be difficult for a child forced to tell a jury about abuse.

*FINDING WORDS* can be difficult for an investigator or prosecutor forced to defend an interview from an attack by defense counsel that the child was “led” into making a false accusation.

*CHILD FIRST/FINDING WORDS* is an intensive five-day training course in which students learn the necessary skills to conduct a competent investigative interview of a child abuse victim using the ChildFirst forensic interview process.

*CHILD FIRST/FINDING WORDS* is an interactive course, which combines lectures with demonstrations and hands-on experience. Students will be required to interview a child about a non-abuse event and be critiqued by an expert forensic interviewer. Students will also conduct a 30-minute interview with an actor playing the role of an abused child and will be critiqued on their performances.

*CHILD FIRST/FINDING WORDS* is the ideal course for child welfare investigators, law enforcement, mental health clinicians and prosecutors seeking to enhance their ability to speak to and for abused children.

*CHILD FIRST/FINDING WORDS—NEW JERSEY* is a course taught by faculty trained and certified by the Zero Abuse Project’s National Child Protection Training Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

# CHILD FIRST/FINDING WORDS– NEW JERSEY

Interviewing Children & Preparing for Court

Please register on the page 5 under one of these classifications:

## FORENSIC INTERVIEWER

This classification identifies law enforcement, forensic interviewers, assistant prosecutors, and child protection workers (Division of Child Protection and Permanency; Institutional Abuse) that conduct interviews of children for both criminal and family court matters. They will be responsible for attending all 5 days of investigative training, they will both conduct and provide feedback for the actor and child interviews and must successfully complete the written exam.

## OBSERVER

This classification includes mental health providers, victim advocates and medical personnel that provide services for children that are victims of abuse. They will be responsible for attending all 5 days of training; they will observe and provide feedback for the actor and child interviews and must successfully complete the written exam.

## UPDATE TRAINING

This classification includes forensic interviewers that were previously trained in Child First/Finding Words prior to 2014 and have never attended an update training course. Applicants must provide a copy of their Finding Words certificate attached to this application.

1. Forensic interviewers that will be actively conducting forensic interviews of children must complete the entire 5-day training. On page 5, please check off “**Forensic Interviewer**”.
2. Supervisors that will be observing/supervising forensic interviews must attend:
  - a. The second day of training to observe the instruction on the forensic interview protocol.
  - b. The fourth day of training to observe the forensic interview protocol during the actor interviews.

On page 5, please check off “**Updated training**” for this option.

**Upon successful completion of the training, certificates will be awarded to all.**

# FINDING WORDS/CHILD FIRST/ – NEW JERSEY

Interviewing Children & Preparing for Court

## Finding Words Training Application Form

I am applying for: (See page 3 for explanation)

Forensic Interviewer     Observer     Updated training (Trained prior to 2014)

(Attach a Copy of Finding Words certificate to application)

Please check the appropriate box below if you are applying for CLE (Lawyers) or CEU (Social work) credits if approved:

Credits (34.70 credits)  CEU Credits (35 Credits) License #: \_\_\_\_\_ (See page 4)

### **PLEASE COMPLETE FORM IN IT'S ENTIRETY AND SIGN**

**ALL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**(Please write N/A where necessary. Application will be considered incomplete without a resume attached.)**

**Applications submitted as an MDT Team for MDT Trainings will be given priority over individual applications.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

DCPP Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: NJ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Number and Ext.: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Home Number: \_\_\_\_\_

MDT Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied to attend Child First/Finding Words?

YES     NO

Number of years as a Child Abuse Professional: \_\_\_\_\_

Experience conducting forensic or therapeutic interviews: \_\_\_\_\_

Other child abuse-related training or interviewing programs attended: \_\_\_\_\_

If you speak another language fluently (including American Sign Language) please list them here:

\_\_\_\_\_

How would you like your name on your certificate after completion of this course? **Please Print**

\_\_\_\_\_

# FINDING WORDS/CHILD FIRST – NEW JERSEY

## Interviewing Children & Preparing for Court

Approximate description of jurisdiction: (Check one.)

Urban       Rural       Suburban

Approximately how many children have you interviewed regarding the following types of abuse?

Physical Abuse/Child Death: \_\_\_\_\_ Sexual Abuse: \_\_\_\_\_

Emotional Abuse/Neglect: \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Neglect: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you conduct interviews in a child friendly environment?  YES       NO

If yes, briefly describe:

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Why do you want to attend this course?

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**IF APPLYING THROUGH A COUNTY MDT PLEASE SUBMIT THE COMPLETED APPLICATION TO YOUR MDT COORDINATOR**

Applications submitted as a team through your MDT coordinator will be given priority over individual applications for MDT Training sessions.

**IF APPLYING SEPERATELY PLEASE SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION BY MAIL, FAX, OR SCAN TO:**

Email: [cynthia.kowalski@findingwordsnj.org](mailto:cynthia.kowalski@findingwordsnj.org)

FINDING WORDS/CHILD FIRST – NEW JERSEY  
129 Washington Street, Second Floor  
Morristown NJ, 07960  
Phone: 973-539-3965 Fax Number: 973-829-6804

*TUITION (\$600) IS WAIVED  
ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY AT EVERY SESSION*

# FINDING WORDS/CHILD FIRST– NEW JERSEY

Interviewing Children & Preparing for Court

## 2021 Application Addendum

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY!**

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in FINDING WORDS/CHILD FIRST– NEW JERSEY. Please take a few moments to read through this important information regarding the application process and attendance.

Each training is limited to 40 students.

Please be aware that this is an intensive course and **attendance is mandatory at every session**. Pre-course reading materials will be mailed prior to the training. The training sessions are supplemented with homework assignments, which must be completed each night. Each student will be given a written examination at the end of the course. Students who fail to participate in all workshops, complete homework assignments, complete a successful mock interview, or pass the examination will not be awarded a certificate of course completion. It is a rigorous week; however, we assure you that you will benefit from attendance.

Tuition (\$600) for this course is paid for by a grant from the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Continental breakfast, lunch and snacks will be served throughout the week.

Please complete, print, sign and return this form (along with your completed application and resumé) to indicate that you have been made aware of these guidelines regarding application and attendance. If you are duplicating applications for other team members, please include a copy of this application addendum as well. Thank you! We look forward to meeting you throughout the year.

*I have read the above information and understand the guidelines regarding application and attendance. I agree to adhere to this policy as required for my team's attendance and successful completion of this course.*

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Print Name

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Signature

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Date