

COMPASS

Moving Forward Together

Child Abuse Prevention Month

In recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we are sharing professional insights from our Associates, and resources on critical considerations for conducting child abuse investigations. These reflections are rooted in field experience and guided by a clear priority: protecting children through informed judgment, thorough investigation, and responsible action.

If you've ever carried a case home with you, these helpful tips are for you. During the month of April we heard from Julie Kenniston, Bradley Graham, Cindy Cantu, Chris Kolcharno and more. Our experts shared practical, everyday steps we can all take to help protect children and strengthen prevention efforts.



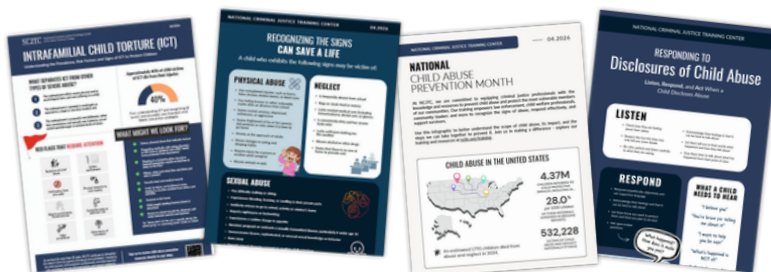
Resources

Protecting children starts with recognizing the signs others may miss.

Newly released resources - including identifying and responding to Intrafamilial Child Torture (ICT), Recognizing the Signs of Child Abuse and stats from 2024.

532,000+ children were identified as victims of abuse in the U.S. in 2024. 76% were harmed by a parent or guardian. Child abuse is happening in every state and countless jurisdictions.

For child protection professionals, these numbers reflect the reality of the work. Investigators, forensic interviewers, criminal justice, advocates, and first responders see this firsthand, and having the right resources behind you matters.



Read and download the resources at ncjtc.org/capresources

Continue building your knowledge and skills on this critical topic:

[View NCJTC Child Abuse Trainings](#)

Together, we can improve outcomes and help safeguard vulnerable children.

IN THIS EDITION:

- ✓ Child Abuse Prevention Month
- ✓ MUPC 2026 Recap
- ✓ NCJTC Impact
- ✓ In the News

Upcoming Events

Don't Miss NCJTC at our June Conferences

School Resource Officer Training Conference
June 9-11 | Appleton, WI

Join law enforcement and school personnel to address school violence and youth victimization through prevention and response strategies. Review lessons learned from case studies, examine trauma's impact on youth, explore current trends in social media and substance abuse, and discuss effective prevention and intervention programs.

[Learn more and Secure Your Spot](#)

WI Law Enforcement Administrative Professionals Training Conference (LEAP)

June 17-19 | Onalaska, WI

Join other administrative professionals, executive assistants, and support personnel from criminal justice and other governmental agencies to discuss relevant topics focused on improving communication, enhancing skills, and fostering community outreach.

[Learn more and Secure Your Spot](#)

2026 MUPC Highlights

17th Annual National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference

2026 National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference brought together hundreds of dedicated professionals, families, and advocates - united by one mission: to bring the missing home.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who helped make #MUPC2026 a success. We're grateful to the attendees, presenters, and subject matter experts who shared their time and insights. We also recognize the families and survivors who participated, along with our NCJTC team, conference committee, sponsors, exhibitors, and partners.

2026 conference included:

3 days

of networking, collaboration and training

300 +

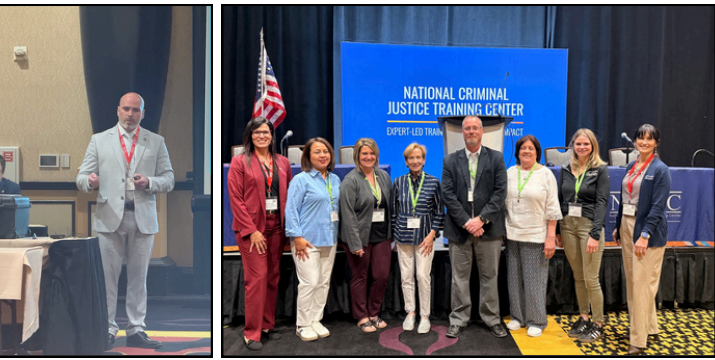
Attendees and subject-matter experts from 40 states and Canada

05

Expert-Led Plenaries

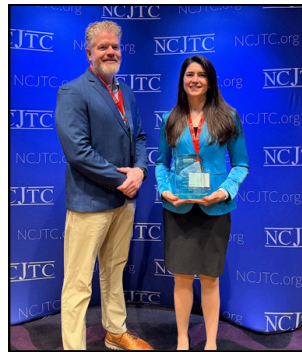
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Interactive break-out sessions and workshops



Service Award Recognition

We were honored to recognize Senior Assistant District Attorney Shannon Hodder last week with the 2026 National Missing & Unidentified Persons Conference (MUPC) Service Award.



Read the full service award announcement [here](#).

KEY PARTNER RECOGNITION

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Registration is NOW OPEN for 2027!

April 13-15, 2027 | Las Vegas, NV
Learn More and Register [HERE](#)

NCJTC Impact

NCJTC Impact Report - 2025 Review

We're proud to share our 2025 Annual Report, highlighting the meaningful impact we've made together to enhance public safety and strengthen communities nationwide.

From innovative training initiatives to expanded support in under-resourced and Tribal communities, this progress was made possible through strong partnerships. The NCJTC Impact Report offers a closer look at the initiatives, programs, and collaborative relationships advanced with the support of our federal, state, local, and Tribal partners—and we're excited to share what we've achieved together.

Inside the review:

- Innovations in public safety training delivery
- Criminal justice training growth and impact by the numbers
- Critical Services through Grant-Funded Programs
- Innovative Growth in Contract Training
- Success stories and new collaborative partnerships
- National conferences and program facilitation
- Key work with tribal and under-resourced communities
- ...and more!



[READ THE REPORT](#)

#SeeTheChild Challenge

On this DEC Awareness Day (April 2nd 2026) we choose to see the child.

Drug-endangered children are often missed even when they're in plain sight. They will no longer be missed.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Hide in plain sight (blend into walls, curtains, plants, toys, etc)
- Snap a photo
- Share and challenge others to find you
- Tag 3 more people to take part

Can YOU see the child?

Take part, share your photos, and challenge others to #SeeTheChild!

April 22 - DEC Awareness Day!

The 4th Wednesday of April is designated as Drug-Endangered Children (DEC) Awareness Day. [Review the resource](#) from National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and learn what you can do to spread the word.

Looking for more training on DEC Awareness?

Recorded Webinars

[Intro to Drug Endangered Children Awareness: Identifying Drug Endangered Children - A Collaborative Approach](#)

[Drug Endangered Children \(DEC\) Alliance Development - A Successful Tribal Model](#)

Published Tribal Resources

[Establishing Programs to Support Drug Endangered Children \(DEC\): Is My Community Ready?](#)

[Implementing Programs to Support Drug Endangered Children in Tribal Communities: Getting Buy-In From Law Enforcement](#)

[Institutionalizing Support for Drug Endangered Children in Tribal Communities: How to Sustain It in an Ever-Changing World](#)

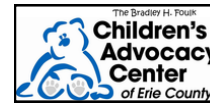
NCJTC Impact

Episode 04 - Dropping May 7

TELL US **YOUR STORY** 

For Detective Sergeant Barber, the job is about more than investigations—it’s about advocacy. As a member of the City of Erie Police Department’s Major Crimes Unit, he focuses on crimes against children, including sex offenses, abuse cases and unexplained child deaths. For the past four years, he and one other detective have worked out of the Erie County Children’s Advocacy Center, alongside forensic interviewers and child protective services professionals, as part of a multidisciplinary team built around one goal: protecting children.

Detective Sgt. Barber and his partners have taken a proactive approach to training for several years, and we are proud to continue supporting their professional development. Barber himself has completed a wide range of virtual and in-person courses, self-paced learning, and live webinars across multiple disciplines.



“These are the most vulnerable victims. A lot of times with children under four, they aren't even able to communicate. You are advocating for somebody who really can't advocate for themselves.”

- Detective Sergeant Barber

To view the full video on May 7, please [SUBSCRIBE](#) to the NCJTC YouTube channel.



Tribal Law Enforcement Victim Services Academy



Protecting Lives, Strengthening Justice: Essential Victim-Centered Policing for Tribal Law Enforcement

May 13 - September 9, 2026

16-week virtual training designed to equip new and current law enforcement officers working in Tribal communities with the foundational knowledge and practical skills needed to support victims of crime using a culturally grounded, trauma-informed, and victim-centered approach.

Violence against Native women remains a significant public safety issue. According to the U.S. Department of the Interior- Indian Affairs Office, more than 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. Tribal law enforcement officers report persistent challenges in identifying and responding appropriately to victims, navigating victim reluctance to come forward, and accessing adequate victim service resources.

To address these challenges, NCJTC in partnership with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute developed the Tribal Law Enforcement Victim Services Academy.

Led by: Julian Garcia, Catherine Retana, and Bonnie Clairmont

Priority registrations given to Tribal law enforcement or law enforcement providing services to Tribal communities.

Learn more and register: ncjtc.org/VictimCenteredPolicing



NCJTC in the News

Leadership Award

NCJTC Associate and Retired Detective, Julian Garcia with the Tohono O’odham Nation was recognized by the U.S. Attorney’s Office District of Arizona during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

Honored for going above and beyond on behalf of federal crime victims, Julian’s impact reaches far beyond a single moment of recognition. Julian’s more than 24-year law enforcement career spans corrections, judicial security, patrol, gang investigations, and federally commissioned service in Indian Country. For nearly a decade, Julian has served as an NCJTC associate, supporting Tribal training and technical assistance efforts. He is also dedicated to providing services through the COPS Office funded Tribal Community Response Plans for Missing Indigenous Persons Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Program, BJA funded Tribal Responses to Alcohol and Substance Misuse TTA Program and AMBER Alert in Indian Country TTA Program.

His leadership, mentorship, and culturally grounded, trauma-informed, and victim-centered approach reflect a lifelong commitment to service, integrity, and community.



Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise in Indian Country (CATE-IC)



Protecting Our Children Requires a United Front

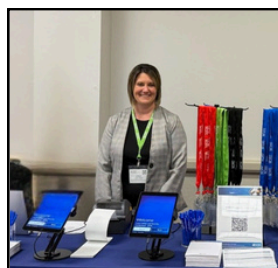
March 6 - AMBER Alert in Indian Country Associate David Chewiwie joined forces with the San Diego Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Task Force, Tribal leaders, and law enforcement at the Jamul Indian Village (Kumeyaay) Casino Resort in San Diego for a vital CATE-IC.

This wasn't just a training—it was an opportunity for our Southern San Diego Tribal communities to:

- Run through a fictional “real-time” abduction scenario.
- Self-assess current AMBER Alert response plans.
- Identify local resources and critical training needs.

A huge thank you to the local, county, state, and Tribal law enforcement, Tribal advocates, and the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department search and rescue volunteers for their dedication.

FVTC Quarter Century Club



Congratulations to three of our NCJTC team members for their induction into Fox Valley Tech Quarter Century Club! Mishelle Bowen, Jill Nysse, and Jessica Heimann joined 13 other inductees from FVTC at a recognition celebration on April 23.

Left: Mishelle and Jill at the ceremony
Right: Jessica working hard at our conferences



Where We'll Be

NCJTC Trainings in May

Responding to the Abduction of Ashley Johnson Barr: Community and State Collaboration



May 19 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm CT

This presentation highlights the response to the abduction of 10 year old Ashley Johnson-Barr on September 6, 2018 from Kotzebue, Alaska. The presentation will include a panel of responders who participated in the search for Ashley, who will provide their insight and experience during the search and aftermath of the incident. Participants will gain insight into the role of community coordination and the importance of the AMBER Alert in Indian Country program.

[Learn More and Register](#)

[Responding to Sextortion Related Offenses Against Children](#)

May 7 | July 16 | September 17

[Community Approaches to Sex Offender Management](#)

May 13 -14 | Live Online

[Child Homicide Investigations](#)

May 18 -19 | Brunswick, MD

[Internet of Things: Criminal Investigation Considerations](#)

May 19 | Live Online

[Reimagining Policing: Strategies for Building Community Relationships that Last](#)

May 19 - 20 | Live Online

[Investigation and Prosecution of Cold Case Homicides](#)

May 20 -21 | Brunswick, MD

NADEC | May 5 - 7 | Las Vegas

The National Conference on Drug-Endangered Children is where leaders come together to make a difference—and NCJTC is proud to be part of it.

We are excited to showcase our experts at the 2026 conference. NCJTC is bringing 4 expert voices to the stage - presenting on critical topics impacting drug-endangered children. From the role of tribal law enforcement in prevention and diversion efforts, to best practices in forensic interviewing and multidisciplinary response, to supporting fathers in recovery and strengthening families—these sessions highlight collaborative, trauma-informed, and culturally grounded strategies to improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.



Kevin Mariano



Kevin Poleyumptewa



Julie Kenniston



Julian Garcia



Did You Know?

We can come directly to YOUR facility to [host](#) our most highly-sought after training courses!



Did you miss the last issue of the NCJTC Compass? [Read the March issue!](#)



Scan the QR code to subscribe to our newsletter or visit ncjtc.org/signup!

Connect With Us

info@ncjtc.org | ncjtc.org | (855) 866-2582
7:00 am - 5:00 pm CT (M - F)

