

# Advanced Abuse Investigations: Domestic Violence, Strangulation & Pediatric Fatalities

## Course Overview:

Domestic violence and child abuse investigations remain among the most complex, dangerous, and emotionally charged cases law enforcement officers face. This two-day advanced training course provides attendees with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to tackle two critical and overlapping areas of investigation.

**Day One** focuses on domestic violence and strangulation-related assaults, covering investigative strategies, medical and forensic findings, and trauma-informed interviewing techniques.



**Day Two** shifts to the investigation of physical child abuse, pediatric homicide, and accidental death, with an emphasis on injury recognition, distinguishing accidental vs. intentional trauma, and case study review.

Throughout both days, students will learn how to identify and document key evidence, utilize forensic tools like alternative light sources, and strengthen their ability to build prosecutable cases involving both adult and child victims.



**This course is designed for** law enforcement officers, detectives, first responders, investigators, prosecutors, and medical professionals who handle domestic violence, strangulation, and assault cases. It is ideal for those seeking advanced investigative techniques, forensic evidence recognition, and trauma-informed approaches to improve case outcomes and support victims effectively. ***This course is eligible for TCOLE Credit.***

## Course Topics:

### Domestic Violence & Strangulation Focus (Day One):

- The Reality of DV Calls: Why they remain high-risk for law enforcement
- Strangulation Investigations: Medical, forensic, and legal considerations
- Injury Pattern Recognition: Petechiae, subconjunctival hemorrhage, and more
- Using Alternative Light Sources: How to detect hidden injuries
- Investigative Best Practices: Building stronger cases and better outcomes
- Report Writing Essentials: Crafting thorough, objective, and legally sound narratives
- Identifying Qualifying Domestic Relationships: Understanding legal definitions and case implications
- Evidence Challenges in Non-Visible Injury Cases: Strengthening cases without obvious physical signs
- Case Studies: Real strangulation and DV investigations — lessons learned
- Victims & Officers: When the victim or suspect is a cop
- Trauma & Counterintuitive Behavior: Understanding neurological responses to abuse
- Male Victims of DV: Recognizing and overcoming bias

- Resources & Victim Services: Partnering with support networks

### **Pediatric Abuse & Fatalities Focus (Day Two):**

- Identifying Signs of Physical Abuse in Children
- Bruising, Burns, Fractures, and Head Trauma
- Pediatric Strangulation and Abdominal Injuries
- Determining Accidental vs. Intentional Injuries
- Investigating Child Homicide and Accidental Death Cases
- The Role of Forensic Photography and Documentation
- Use of Alternative Light Sources in Child Abuse Cases
- Understanding Developmental Factors in Injury Patterns
- Case Reviews: Real examples of missed and recognized abuse
- Resources and Guidance for Multi-Disciplinary Investigations

**DATES:** December 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025    **TIMES:** 8:00am-4:00pm

**LOCATION:** South Texas College Regional Center for Public Safety Excellence,  
3901 S. Cage Blvd. Pharr, TX 78577

**TUITION:** \$395.00 (this course is eligible for TCOLE credit)

To register for the full course, visit: <https://homefrontprotect.com/Strangulation120125>

### **Interested in attending just one day?**

We do offer the option to attend either Day 1 *or* Day 2 individually.

To register for a single day, please email [info@homefrontprotect.com](mailto:info@homefrontprotect.com) to request an invoice.

#### *Please note:*

Single-day registration must be arranged in advance and is subject to availability.

**Individual day pricing is \$250 per day**, which is **not a pro-rated rate**—attending both days at the full course rate of **\$395** offers the best value.

**About the Instructor: Colleen Brooks**, began her law enforcement career with the Dodge City Police Department in 2000 after earning a Bachelor's in Psychology. She quickly distinguished herself with commendations, becoming a Detective in 2005 and later rising to the rank of Captain. Over her 25-year career, she specialized in domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault investigations. Colleen served as a forensic child interviewer and was part of the Meadowlark House Child Advocacy Center team from 2004 to 2022. She was selected by the Kansas Governor's Office to help develop and deliver domestic violence training for law enforcement and was approved to do so through the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) and its federal grantors. Although the state did not have a formal certification process, her selection and training efforts were officially supported through state-level partnerships and federal grant programs. She also collaborated with agencies such as the Kansas Attorney General's Office, Aequitas, and the FBI Child Abduction Rapid Deployment team. Colleen has earned multiple awards, including Officer of the Year and the AG's Outstanding Victim Service Award. After retiring from the KBI as a Special Agent in 2025, she continues to serve as an expert witness in domestic violence, strangulation, and child abuse cases. Colleen is currently pursuing a Master's in Clinical Psychology.

*For more information, email us at [info@homefrontprotect.com](mailto:info@homefrontprotect.com), or visit our website to view all our scheduled courses: [www.homefrontprotect.com](http://www.homefrontprotect.com)*