



Montana Children's Justice Conference



AGENDA

March 11-13, 2025

Best Western Plus GranTree Inn - Bozeman

Continuing Education Credits:

P.O.S.T. Credits Pending

CLE Credits Pending

Access Handouts:

<https://childrensalliancemt.org/2024/>

Password: **cj2024**



DAY ONE: Tuesday, March 11

- 12:30–1:00 **Registration**
- 1:00-1:30 **Introductions & Overview of the Agenda**
Mary Leffers Barry, Chief Criminal Deputy Lewis and Clark County Attorney, Children's Alliance of Montana Board of Directors
- 1:30-2:00 **Opening Remarks**
Austin Knudsen, Montana Attorney General (Invited)
Montana Department of Justice Children's Justice Award
- 2:00-3:30 **What I Wish They Would Have Taught Me at The Academy**
Kevin McNeil, Retired Detective, Transformational Speaker, Victim Advocate, author and CEO of The Twe12ve Project, Inc.
- 3:30–3:45 **Break**
- 3:45-4:45 **Research and Practice Update**
Paula Samms, LCPC, Director, Lewis and Clark County Child Advocacy Center, a Program of AWARE; and **Mary Leffers Barry**, Chief Criminal Deputy Lewis and Clark County Attorney
- 4:45–5:00 **Wrap Up and Evaluations**

DAY TWO: Wednesday, March 12

- 8:30 – 9:00 **Coleen Magera Children's Champion Award Presentation**
Mary Leffers Barry, Chief Criminal Deputy Lewis and Clark County Attorney
- 9:00-10:00 **Interviewing Offenders -- How Sex Offenders Get Into the Heads of Victims**
Only the offender knows that the abuse is happening, and the victim is likely to adopt the views of the offender. Teaching survivors to recognize the offender's voice in their head and silence it.
Anna Salter, Ph.D., Author of Predators: Pedophiles
- 10:00 – 10:15 **Break**
- 10:15 – 11:30 **Interviewing Offenders -- How Sex Offenders Get Into the Heads of Victims Cont.**
- 11:30-1:00 **Lunch (on your own)**

- 1:00-2:00** **Detecting Offender Deception, Confirmation Bias and Counterintuitive Victim Behavior**
 Professionals need to understand that they must take the ability of the offender to fool people seriously. Counterintuitive victim behavior kills legal cases and makes prosecutors reluctant to try cases. -- **Anna Salter, Ph.D., Author of Predators: Pedophiles**
- 2:00 – 2:15** **Break**
- 2:15 – 3:30** **Detecting Offender Deception, Confirmation Bias and Counterintuitive Victim Behavior Cont.**
- 3:30 – 3:45** **Break**
- 3:45 – 4:45** **Montana Department of Justice, Office of Victim Services and The Child and Family Ombudsman Program – Resources for Montana citizen living with the impact of crime and abuse and how to effectively access those programs. -- Kayla Bragg, Director of DOJ Office of Victim Services; and Kaci Gaub-Bruno, DOJ Child and Family Ombudsman**
- 4:45 – 5:00** **Wrap Up – Evaluations**

DAY THREE: Thursday, March 13

- 8:30-10:00** **A Case Study - Overcoming the Challenges in Investigation and Prosecution of Crimes Against Children–** Techniques for successful prosecution of child abuse cases, strategies to conduct a comprehensive investigation and many ways to corroborate the forensic interview and ensure the victim’s experience is portrayed. -- **Bill Fulbright** - Ravalli County Attorney; Trainer, National District Attorneys Association; Founding Member, Emma’s House Child Advocacy Center and Ravalli County MDT.
- 10:00-10:15** **Break**
- 10:15-12:00** **A Case Study - Overcoming the Challenges in Investigation and Prosecution of Crimes Against Children –** Techniques for successful prosecution of child abuse cases, strategies to conduct a comprehensive investigation and many ways to corroborate the forensic interview and ensure the victim’s experience is portrayed. -- **Bill Fulbright** - Ravalli County Attorney; Trainer, National District Attorneys Association; Founding Member, Emma’s House Child Advocacy Center and Ravalli County MDT
- 12:00 – 12:10** **Evaluations and Adjourn. Thank you for Attending and Safe Travels.**

