

Los Angeles County Public Defender Social Work Department

LACPD & CPDA Youth Defender Training 2026

Kids Are Different: The Developmental Science Behind Adolescent Sexual Misconduct

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| DATE & TIME: | April 25, 2026 | 10:00-11:00AM |
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All registration must be confirmed by the education director at least 3 days prior to the training. Sign in from 10:00-11:00AM. All participants must arrive during the sign-in period to receive full participation credits.

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| PLACE: | Loyola Law School 919 Albany Street Los Angeles, CA 90015 |
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| PARKING: | \$12.00 |
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This **1.0** credit in-person workshop was developed for legal professionals, including social workers, as an intermediate level course. This training will focus on areas of social work with individuals in nonclinical, forensic practice. This workshop will review the ways in which adolescent sexual misconduct is distinct from that of adults. It will also review developmental factors that explain why adolescents nearly always desist from sexual violence by early adulthood, and recent research that clarifies age-related desistance patterns in adolescents.

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| OBJECTIVES: | As a result of attending this training, participants should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify key developmental differences between adolescents and adults that are relevant to sexual misconduct.• Analyze the empirical research on adolescent recidivism and desistance patterns.• Apply a developmentally informed framework to case analysis. |
| CONDUCTED BY: | Dr. Michael F. Caldwell, Psy.D. is an Emeritus Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a Senior Staff Psychologist at the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center. He is one of the co-founders of the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center and has devoted his career to clinical treatment and risk assessment with violent and high-risk adolescent offenders. He has lectured at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 27 years and provided psychotherapy in outpatient settings for 37 years. Dr. Caldwell conducts research into risk assessment methods and the effectiveness of treatment interventions with adolescent offenders. He has served as an expert consultant since 1987 and has advised a wide range of prominent organizations, including the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Juvenile Justice, the National Academy of Sciences Sackler International Scientific Forum on Neuroscience and the Law, the Sandra Day |

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| | <p>O'Connor School of Law at Arizona State University, and the Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.</p> <p>A prolific researcher, Dr. Caldwell has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on risk assessment and treatment of violent adolescent delinquents and adolescent sexual offenders. He is a Fellow of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers and a member of the American Psychology-Law Society. He has also served as President of the Wisconsin Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.</p> <p>Dr. Caldwell studied microbiology as an undergraduate and earned a Master's in Mental Health Counseling from Kansas State University. He went on to earn his Doctor of Psychology from the University of Denver.</p> |
| COORDINATED BY: | <p>Alison Seeger, LCSW</p> <p>Please see presentation description and agenda in the registration link. Participants must sign-in and sign-out in order to receive their certificate of completion and receive credit. Certificates will be emailed within 10 business days upon turning in the evaluation. Should anyone have any grievances or concerns, they may contact Alison Seeger, LCSW at aseeger@pubdef.lacounty.gov. An additional grievance policy is also attached should any other participant at the conference have a grievance.</p> <p>ADA needs : We would be happy to made accommodations for any individuals with disabilities. Please reach out at least two weeks prior to the training date.</p> <p>Course delivery format will be an in-person workshop and discussion.</p> |
| PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS: | <p>Conference registration is required. Attendance tracking is required for live events, with a sign-in sheet showing first and last name of the participant along with sign-in and out times. Participants must present for the entirety of the training to receive credit.</p> |
| CONTINUING EDUCATION: | <p>Los Angeles Public Defender Social Work Department (ACE# 1553) is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. The Los Angeles County Social Work Department maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 06/14/2023- 06/14/2026.</p> <p>Social workers participating in this training will receive 1.0 continuing education GENERAL/Non-Clinical credits.</p> |
| COST | <p>LA County allied defense professionals \$0/non-LA County (CPDA member) \$150/non-LA County non-member \$200</p> |