

# Child Welfare and Forensics CLE

## Friday, July 25, 2025

### Bridging Technology, Trauma, and the Law

---

#### *Forensic Tools and Legal Strategies in Child Welfare Cases*

---

**8:00 a.m.**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Speaker: Attorney Cheri A. Abbage

**8:15 a.m.**

**Behind the Screen: Investigating Child Exploitation in the Digital Age**

*A Law Enforcement Perspective on Cyber Abuse, Legal Collaboration, and Survivor Empowerment*

**Sergeant Gary Marquis**

Office of the Texas Attorney General, Criminal Investigations Division, Child Exploitation Unit, Southern Texas Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce.

**9:45 a.m.**

**Break**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Clinical Insight for Legal Professionals on Interpreting Pediatric Findings and Leveraging Medical Expertise in Abuse and Neglect Cases**

*Insights on Pediatric Clinical Evidence in Child Welfare Litigation*

**Dr. Disha Jain, M.D.**

Child Abuse Pediatrics team at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston

**11:00 a.m.**

**Combatting Online Exploitation of Children in Texas: Legal Tools, Legislative Shifts, and the Power of Digital Evidence**

*A Legal Perspective on Prosecuting Cybercrime and Advancing Justice Through Forensic Innovation and Policy Reform*

**Brody Burks**

Assistant Attorney General, Office of The Attorney General of Texas

**12:00 p.m.**

**Lunch on your own**

**12:30 p.m.**

**Trauma-Informed Justice in Child Welfare: A Judge's Perspective on Compassionate and Effective Advocacy**

*Insights from the 246th District Court on Navigating Trauma, Strengthening Families, and Advancing Equitable Legal Outcomes*

**Honorable Judge Angela L. Graves-Harrington**

246<sup>th</sup> District Court of Harris County

**2:00 p.m.**

**Evolving Standards in Texas Child Welfare Law: Legal Practice, CPS Procedure, and Case Law Updates**

*An Attorney's Perspective on Child Welfare Law, CPS Procedure, and Recent Developments in Texas Case Law*

**Jeanice Dawes, Esq.**

Jenkins & Kamin LLP

**3:30 p.m.**

**Break**

**3:40 p.m.**

**Unmasking Exploitation: Interviewing Sexually Exploited Children in the Digital Age**

*Trauma-Informed Techniques and Legal Considerations for Attorneys and Forensic Professionals*

**Kristi Hawkins**

Executive Director, Brazoria County Alliance for Children

**5:00 Adjourn**