

Children's Detective

Demographics and Background

- You are the MDT Children's Detective
- You have authority to conduct background searches for any law enforcement documents relating to families (such as individual criminal background checks, arrest warrants, etc.), and to provide to other MDT members such information for MDT investigations.
- You also may participate as an active MDT member in active investigations, CAC visits and case reviews, per the CAC model.

Authority/Responsibilities

- You are required to conduct an investigation in response to allegations of child abuse or neglect reported to the state child abuse and neglect hotline.
- You have the authority and access to question the following people involved in this case:
 - Alleged victims
 - Caregivers
 - Suspects
 - Witnesses

Your responsibilities are

1. Investigate to determine if a crime has occurred.
2. Gather any corroborating evidence to facilitate the investigation.
3. Question and arrest relevant suspects if appropriate.
4. Seek warrants/charges from the prosecutor if appropriate.
5. Activate any and all relevant multidisciplinary team members necessary to facilitate the investigation (e.g. Child Protection Services, Child Advocacy Center).

Character Development Tips

Module #3

- In this module, you will first "observe" a Forensic Interview
- Following the forensic interview, the MDT members will take turns sharing information relevant to their roles in the investigation. The team will work together to evaluate information that comes from the interview and will identify next steps.

- Following this initial meeting, the family advocate will invite the caregiver into the post-interview meeting. You will introduce yourself and the role you play in the investigation, as MDT members take turns sharing their planned next steps, from their areas of expertise.
- You might explain possible next steps such as interviewing the alleged perpetrator and any witnesses, preparing arrest affidavits or search warrants, sharing information with the prosecutor, etc. and completing documentation around your evidence findings.

- Be sure to ask other MDT members any questions you have about the information that they provide during the meeting, and respond to any questions the NOC may have for you.

Information you can now share

- Any information that arises from the interview or from your investigation plan that would be relevant to your role as a child abuse detective.