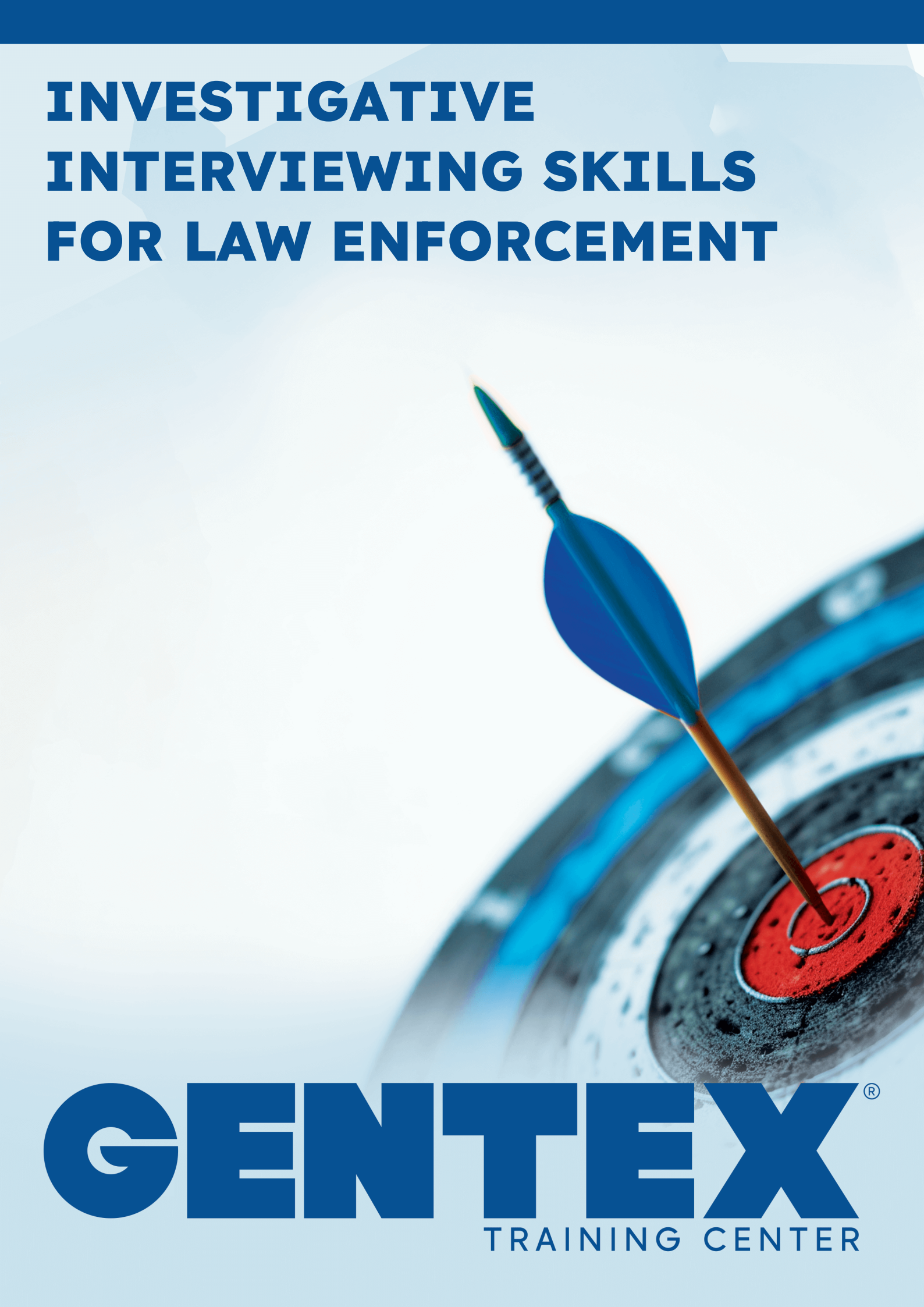
INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING SKILLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



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GENTEX Training Center LLC | Orlando - FL, USA
Info@gentextraining.com

Introduction

Investigative Interviewing Skills for Law Enforcement examines how officers obtain reliable accounts from witnesses, victims, and suspects within legal and ethical limits. This Training Course covers interview planning, rapport building, questioning technique, and account evaluation. Participants study the PEACE model, cognitive interviewing, the enhanced cognitive interview, and the science of memory and suggestibility. Furthermore, the programme connects interviewing doctrine to case reality through recorded practice and coached feedback. As a result, delegates leave able to conduct interviews that produce accurate, admissible accounts.

Investigative Interviewing Skills for Law Enforcement Course Objectives

- Define investigative interviewing and distinguish it from interrogation.
- Apply the PEACE model across planning, engage, account, closure, and evaluate.
- Build interview plans linked to investigative and evidential aims.
- Establish rapport ethically without manipulation or coercion.
- Use open questions, funnel technique, and topic expansion.
- Apply cognitive interviewing and enhanced cognitive interview methods.
- Recognise memory processes, distortion, and suggestibility risks.
- Interview vulnerable witnesses using appropriate special measures.
- Apply legal safeguards including cautioning and access to legal advice.
- Evaluate accounts for consistency, credibility, and evidential value.

Course Methodology

- Interactive workshops using real interview scenarios and case studies.

- Structured practice interviews with recorded review and coached feedback.
- Guided question-construction labs on open and closed questions.
- Role-play with vulnerable and reluctant interviewee profiles.
- Facilitated discussion of ethics, coercion, and false confession risk.
- Action planning that converts each session into a workplace commitment.

Who Should Take This Course

- Police officers and detective investigators.
- Child protection and safeguarding interviewers.
- Fraud, economic crime, and regulatory investigators.
- Customs, border, and immigration interviewing staff.
- Military and security investigators.
- Prosecutors and case review specialists.
- Corporate internal investigation teams.

Investigative Interviewing Skills for Law Enforcement Course Outlines

Day 1: Interviewing Foundations and the PEACE Model

- Defining investigative interviewing and its purpose.
- Distinguishing interviewing from interrogation approaches.
- The PEACE model and its five stages in practice.
- Investigative and evidential aims of an interview.
- Legal framework: cautions, rights, and access to legal advice.
- Ethical interviewing and the risks of coercion.

- Common interviewing errors and their consequences.

Day 2: Planning and Preparation

- Case file review and identification of interview objectives.
- Topic planning and interview sequencing.
- Preparing questioning strategies for different interviewee types.
- Planning for vulnerable, intimidated, and child witnesses.
- Special measures and intermediaries in practice.
- Equipment, recording, and documentation preparation.
- Risk assessment and contingency planning.

Day 3: Engage and Account Gathering

- Rapport building techniques that remain ethical.
- Explaining the interview process and expectations.
- Free recall and uninterrupted account techniques.
- The funnel approach: open, probing, and closed questions.
- Expanding topics and exploring inconsistencies.
- Silence, pacing, and managing dominant talkers.
- Handling confused, evasive, or reluctant interviewees.

Day 4: Cognitive Interviewing and Vulnerable Witnesses

- Memory processes and factors affecting recall.
- Cognitive interviewing: context reinstatement, varied retrieval.
- The enhanced cognitive interview structure.

- Suggestibility, misinformation, and leading question risks.
- Interviewing children and witnesses with communication needs.
- Achieving best evidence (ABE) standards in practice.
- Trauma-informed interviewing and re-traumatisation avoidance.

Day 5: Closure, Evaluation, and Challenge

- Closing the interview properly and clarifying next steps.
- Providing information and handling follow-up questions.
- Evaluating account reliability and credibility indicators.
- Assessing consistency across evidence and other accounts.
- Managing admissions and challenge in suspect interviews.
- Record keeping, disclosure, and review obligations.
- Personal action plan and continuous improvement.

Conclusion

By successfully completing Investigative Interviewing Skills for Law Enforcement, participants will have acquired a practical command of interview planning, rapport building, questioning technique, and account evaluation. They will know how to apply the PEACE and cognitive interview models, handle vulnerable witnesses properly, and keep interviews within legal and ethical limits. In addition, the course prepares delegates to evaluate accounts for evidential value and credibility. As a result, they return to duty ready to conduct interviews that stand up to legal scrutiny. Gentex Training Center delivers this Training Course with a practical, standards-based approach.

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FAQs for the Investigative Interviewing Skills for Law Enforcement course

Q1 What is the "Investigative Interviewing Skills for Law Enforcement" course about?

It is a five-day programme that develops the skills officers need to obtain reliable accounts from witnesses, victims, and suspects. It covers interview planning, rapport, questioning technique, cognitive interviewing, vulnerable witness handling, and account evaluation.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Investigative Interviewing Skills for Law Enforcement" course?

Participants gain the ability to obtain fuller and more accurate accounts, reduce leading questions and memory distortion risk, and conduct interviews that withstand legal challenge. They also learn to handle vulnerable witnesses properly and to evaluate credibility objectively rather than by instinct.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Investigative Interviewing Skills for Law Enforcement" course?

Interview planning linked to investigative and evidential aims, ethical rapport building with structured questioning, cognitive interviewing including enhanced cognitive interview techniques, and vulnerable witness handling with account evaluation and credibility assessment.

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Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Investigative Interviewing Skills for Law Enforcement" course?

The course covers the PEACE interview model, cognitive interviewing and the enhanced cognitive interview, the funnel questioning approach, free recall and topic expansion techniques, achieving best evidence (ABE) standards, special measures and intermediary provisions, the caution and right to legal advice safeguards, and credibility and consistency evaluation frameworks.

Q5 How is the "Investigative Interviewing Skills for Law Enforcement" course applied in real-world practice?

Delegates apply it through interview plans, witness and victim interviews, suspect interviews under caution, recorded interviews, ABE interviews with vulnerable witnesses, interview summaries, and case file preparation. They also use it to review interviews for quality assurance and to prepare evidence packages for prosecutors.