



# An Informed Approach to Law Enforcement Contact with Youth in South Carolina

**Who should attend:** South Carolina law enforcement officers

**Overview:** As gatekeepers to the justice system, law enforcement officers are the first and most frequent juvenile justice decision-makers to encounter youth on the streets, in malls, in schools, in homes, and other settings. Law enforcement agencies are the primary source of delinquency referrals each year. Studies conducted on a national level have generally found that law enforcement officers' decision-making does contribute to minority overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system. This training seeks to provide South Carolina law enforcement with vital information that will inform their decision-making process related to the juvenile justice system during their contact with youth. This training will begin with a review of the legal eligibility requirements and limitations of placing a youth in secure detention. This will include a discussion of the decision-making process and what a youth may experience once detained. This training will provide attendees with an overview of adolescent behaviors, adverse childhood experiences, and various trauma-informed practices available to them. Presenters will share their expertise and knowledge about important topics such as the historical context of race and the criminal justice system and its impact on racial disparities; implicit bias, cultural awareness, and sensitivity; and the use of de-escalation techniques as tools during contact with youth.

**Location:** This training will be held at the University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law, 1525 Senate Street, Columbia, SC 29208 in the Judge Karen J. Williams Courtroom, Room 103.

**Date:** Friday, September 20, 2024

**Course Times:** 8:00 am – 4:45 pm

**Fee:** There is no charge for this training.

**Continuing Education Credits:** Application has been made to the SC Criminal Justice Academy for 7 hours of continuing education credits.

**For more information:** Contact Margaret Bodman at [margaretbodman@sc.edu](mailto:margaretbodman@sc.edu) or 803-576-7236.

**To register:** Go to the Children's Law Center registration system:  
<https://sc.edu/clc/public/index.php>.