

## **Development of SAFE: Safe Accessible Forensic Interviewing for Elders**

SAFE was developed by Modell Consulting Group's (MCG) Scott Modell, Ph.D., Staci Whitney, L.M.S.W., Kate Homan, M.S., Dermot Whelan, Police Sergeant, Ret., and Misty Boldt, L.M.S.W., with substantive input from Candace Heisler, J.D. and Chris Dubble, M.S.W. To draft the initial curriculum, MCG drew upon their previous experience developing training in child forensic interviewing and interviewing adults with disabilities, in addition to undertaking an exhaustive literature review across all relevant domains of aging that might affect interviewing older adults (e.g., cognition, bruising, etc.). MCG initially developed the instructor manuals for the three trainings, followed by the participant manuals, and a set of powerpoints. To test the curriculum, MCG pilot tested the three trainings in May and June of 2022. The 4-Day virtual pilot training consisted of 24 participants, including highly experienced child forensic interviewers, elder justice prosecutors and law enforcement personnel, and adult protective services caseworkers from across the country who could provide MCG with constructive feedback. In each of the 1-Day and 2-Day virtual pilot trainings, approximately 30 to 40 elder justice professionals participated, again, to ensure those with relevant and extensive knowledge of the field would provide constructive feedback to MCG. Following the pilot trainings, MCG adjusted the curriculum based on their experience providing the pilot training, feedback received in real time during the training, and evaluation survey results. A final set of materials was submitted by MCG and are available on the Elder Justice website. [embed link]