

UNDERTAKING COGNITIVE INTERVIEWS: A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION FOR BEGINNERS

COURSE OVERVIEW

Effective investigative interviews are essential to obtaining accurate, reliable, and detailed information from witnesses and victims. Cognitive interviewing is an evidence-based interviewing approach designed to enhance memory recall, improve the quality of information obtained, and reduce the risk of contamination through inappropriate questioning.

This two-day introductory course provides practitioners with a practical understanding of the principles and techniques of cognitive interviewing. Delegates will explore how memory works, factors that can influence recall, and how cognitive interviewing techniques can support the retrieval of information whilst maintaining fairness, accuracy, and professionalism.

Through a combination of interactive exercises, case studies, and practical scenario-based activities, participants will learn how to plan, structure, and conduct cognitive interviews that maximise evidential opportunities whilst remaining sensitive to the needs of interviewees.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand memory and recall.
- Identify misconceptions about memory and witness recall.
- Describe the purpose and benefits of cognitive interviewing.
- Recognise when cognitive interviewing techniques may be appropriate and when alternative approaches should be considered.
- Identify the objectives and plan effectively for cognitive interviews.
- Know how to conduct a trauma-informed cognitive interview.

COURSE FORMAT

Duration: Two-day

Method: In person

Materials: Course handouts provided

Certification: Completion certificate provided

