



**Fraud Investigators
Spring Conference
May 13-15, 2026**



Sugar Lake Lodge
37584 Otis Lane
Cohasset, MN 55721
1-218-327-1462
www.sugarlakelodge.com

General Announcements

Sessions: All training sessions will be held in the Alexander Room.

Meals: Refer to the program for mealtimes.

MFIA Board Elections: Board Positions up for nomination:

- Vice President
- Secretary Treasurer
- Director at Large (Hennepin)
- Director at Large (Ramsey)
- Out-State Director
- Federal Liaison

Name Badges: Please make sure to turn in your name badge to the MFIA Secretary/Treasurer at the end of the conference.

POST: You must sign the roster every day. MFIA will submit the roster to the POST Board at the conclusion of the Conference. All Sworn personnel are still expected to keep their certificates or proofs of completion documentation for the course they attend.

CLE: Continuing Legal Education credits have been applied for. Attorneys are responsible for reporting their credit hours as per the CLE provisions.

Conference & Speaker Evaluation: The MFIA Board wants to hear from you! Please complete the evaluation survey at the end of the conference.

Hospitality: There will be a hospitality space on Wednesday and Thursday evening starting at approximately 6:00 p.m. The location will be announced at conference.

Extras: Complementary golf with cart (weather dependent), use of tennis/pickleball courts, fitness center, horseshoes, cornhole boards, bikes, kayaks, canoes, and nightly bonfires.

Team Building: We are offering a speed puzzle contest and Giant Jenga as team building events.

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

- 11:30-12:00 Registration
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch (Provided)
- 12:30-1:00 **Conference Opening**
Karl Schreck – Keynote
- 1:00-1:10 Break (Prize Drawing)
- 1:10-2:15 **Case Study – Alaska Residence Case**
Chad Wiener, Senior Criminal Investigator, MN Department of Revenue
Proving or disproving residency can be difficult. In this case study, Chad will show how he successfully proved that a purported Alaska resident was actually a Minnesota resident over six years through multiple avenues.
- 2:15-2:30 Break (Prize Drawing)
- 2:30-3:00 **DHS Updates**
Crystal Herman, Department of Human Services
Staff will discuss FPI Program updates & upcoming projects, FASE updates, DHS/DCYF policy updates and other topics relevant to FPI Investigations and maintaining program integrity in public assistance programs administered by DHS & DCYF.
- 3:00-3:10 Break (Large Prize Drawing)
- 3:10-4:30 **Preparing and Submitting a Compelling Administrative Disqualification Hearing (ADH) Request**
Kandace Feist, Mower County Health and Human Services
Crystal Herman, Department of Human Services
The purpose of this presentation is to equip County FPI staff in preparing and submitting a thorough, comprehensive request for an Administrative Disqualification Hearing that distinctly identifies the clear and convincing burden of proof for upholding an Intentional Program Violation. The FPI Program Administrator will provide procedural guidance for requesting an ADH and the Mower County Fraud Prevention Specialist will follow up with case-specific examples of Intentional Program Violations being affirmed and denied through the ADH process.
- 4:30-5:00 Room Check-in/Complementary Happy Hour
- 5:00-6:00 Complementary Happy Hour in Lobby (Beer, wine and apps)
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner (Provided)
- 7:00 Networking & Hospitality (Pontoon – Weather Dependent)

Thursday, May 14, 2026

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast (Provided)
- 8:00-8:15 Day 2 Updates (Prize Drawing)
- 8:15-9:15 **AI and Fraud Investigations (Virtual)**
Julie Temlak, Investigative Consultant, Mass Mutual
Julie will review the AI Mindset for Investigators, High-Value Investigative Workflows, Real-World Case Examples, Responsible AI Use with Sensitive Data, and AI Adoption in Government Agencies
- 9:15-9:30 Break (Prize Drawing)
- 9:30-10:30 **AI and Fraud Investigations (Virtual) (cont.)**
Julie Temlak, Investigative Consultant, Mass Mutual
- 10:30-10:45 Break (Prize Drawing)
- 10:45-12:00 **Federal Updates – “Stump the Chump”**
Andrew McClenahan – UCOWF
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch (Provided)
- 1:00-1:10 Prize Drawing
- 1:10-2:10 **Case Study**
Todd Lau, Le Sueur County S.O., Robert Whipps Le Sueur County Attorney
A case review of a medical assistance felony case that was resolved with a Confession of Judgement.
- 2:10-2:20 Break
- 2:20-2:50 **EBT Edge – Investigative Resources/Overview**
Amber Valensano, BCA
This session will examine how EBT Edge data has been used to identify and investigate large-scale SNAP skimming operations. Attendees will gain practical insights into analyzing transaction data, recognizing fraud patterns, and maximizing EBT Edge as an effective tool in daily welfare fraud investigations.
- 3:00-4:00 MFIA Business Meeting – Break (Large Prize)
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner Banquet (Provided)
- 7:00 Networking & Hospitality – Team Building

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast (Provided)
- 7:30-8:00 **MFIA Board Meeting**
- 8:00-9:00 **CWFI Test** 1-hr for those partaking
Asplin II Room
- 8:00-9:30 **Round Table**
Preston Cowing, Brown County FPI
An interactive roundtable discussion, allowing participants to share strategies, best practices, and lessons learned.
- 9:30-9:45 Break (Prize Drawing)
- 9:45-10:30 **Fraud & Forgery Investigations**
Jake Wilkins, Detective, Brooklyn Center PD
SA Samuel Anderson, USSS Agent
Elizabeth Anderson, USSS Investigative Analyst
An investigative review of ID Theft, Financial Transaction Card Fraud (skimmers, card readers, card encoders), Forgery (check washing demo), IP Address Flipping, FinCEN Reports, Cryptocurrency/ATMS, and Complex Case Organization (Flowchart and spreadsheet examples).
- 10:30-10:40 Break (Prize Drawing)
- 10:40-11:30 **Fraud & Forgery Investigations (Cont.)**
Jake Wilkins, Detective, Brooklyn Center PD
SA Samuel Anderson, USSS Agent
Elizabeth Anderson, USSS Investigative Analyst
- 11:30-12:00 Conference Wrap-Up/Break
Prize Drawing (Large Prize)