



Slipping Through the Cracks: Drug Endangered Children (DEC)

Overview: The SC Children's Justice Act Task Force is hosting a virtual training focused on topics surrounding Drug Endangered Children. Drug Endangered Children (DEC) are defined nationally as children at risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm due to a parent or caregiver's legal or illegal substance misuse, or whose caretaker's substance use interferes with parenting and safety. This presentation will provide a foundational understanding of DEC, and participants will gain practical tools for the identification, recognition, and reporting of suspected DEC. The session will also highlight the importance of collaboration with interdisciplinary teams to ensure consistency in communication approaches and safety for children.

Who should attend: This training is multidisciplinary and open to any professional who may come in contact with situations involving DEC. This may include, but is not limited to, law enforcement, DSS staff, DSS attorneys, guardians ad litem, education professionals, mental health professionals, children's advocacy center staff, victim service providers, prosecutors, and attorneys representing juveniles.

October Session:

Date: Thursday, October 14, 2026 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Location: Zoom platform

Presenters:

Austin D. Cummings, State Intake Manager - Child Welfare Services Safety Office, SC
Department of Social Services

Michelle Cunningham, Program Manager and Liaison - Office of Agency Transformation,
SC Department of Social Services and Office of Substance Use Services

Charlie Cunningham, Investigator - Eighth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office

Hayli Livingston Hoover, Investigations Trainer - Children's Law Center at the University of
South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law

Fee: There is no charge for this training.

Continuing Education Credits: This training is approved for 2.0 general and 2.0 Social Work contact hours. An application for Victim Service Provider hours has been submitted.

For more information: Contact Rebecca Carney at carneyr@mailbox.sc.edu or 803-576-7233.

To register: Go to the Children's Law Center registration system:

<https://sc.edu/clc/public/index.php>