

## program features

### Child Court Preparation Site

- offers the teaching of appropriate court concepts for the child aged approximately 5-10 years of age
- services are provided through the mediums of Breeze information presentations; interactive games; printable handouts and exercises
- live online preparation with an instructor for any child at his/her convenience
- can be accessed free of charge after receiving a password from the program

### Teen Court Preparation Site

- offers the teaching of appropriate court concepts for the teen aged approximately 11-17 years of age
- services are provided through the mediums of Breeze information presentations; interactive games; printable handouts and exercises
- live online preparation scheduled with an instructor for any teen at his/her convenience
- can be accessed free of charge after receiving a password from the program

### Parent Court Preparation Site

- offers the parents information to address their concerns and need for information related to the court process, the court system, resources and strategies to best support their child
- services are provided through the mediums of Breeze information presentations; printable handouts
- live online preparation information for parents scheduled at their convenience
- can be accessed free of charge after receiving a password from the program

### Facilitator Court Preparation Site

- is a closed site designed to provide court preparation facilitators with up to date training, publications, research, networking, discussion and opportunities for curriculum development
- can be accessed free of charge after receiving a password from the program



Canadian Society  
for the Investigation  
of Child Abuse

## about the organization

The Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse is a non-profit organization committed to supporting professionals, communities, victims and witnesses involved in the investigation of child abuse. It was formed in 1985 and its directors include police officers, Crown Prosecutors, social workers and therapists. The Society has produced internationally renowned video and training programs entitled "For the Kids": A Sexual Abuse Training Program for Police and Social Workers and "You're Not Alone": A Child Witness Court Preparation Program. The Society operates the Calgary Child Witness Preparation Program and has been instrumental in facilitating investigative training on a provincial and national basis.



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The Canadian Society for the Investigation Child Abuse

P.O. Box 42066

Acadia Postal Outlet, Calgary, AB T2J 7A6

TEL: (403) 289-8385 FAX: (403) 254-2684 E-MAIL: csica@shaw.ca

[www.childcourtprep.com](http://www.childcourtprep.com)

[www.csicainfo.com](http://www.csicainfo.com)

the on-line web based  
**child witness**  
court preparation program

## about the program

The On-line Web Based Child Witness Court Preparation Program was developed to respond to the needs of child witnesses who may be required to testify in court. Inadequate preparation may result in further trauma to a child, the family and may compromise the court process. Court preparation facilitators are skilled professionals who never discuss the children's testimony with them at any time to ensure that the case is not contaminated.

To accommodate children living in rural areas or those who do not have access to formalized programs, court preparation services are available directly on the website and/or through scheduled live online preparation sessions which allow for individual practice opportunities.

This program reflects a collaboration between Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security Department (Victim Services) and The Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse.

### Children and families benefit by:

- Having access to skilled and experienced court preparation facilitators on a long distance basis.
- Having the support of a Victim Services Worker during the session
- Being able to arrange sessions at convenient times
- Having the opportunity to use both real time preparation sessions (synchronous) and website information and activities (asynchronous).

### Criminal justice professionals benefit by:

- Having the opportunity to access court preparation services AT NO COST for any child involved in a court case
- Having clients utilize state of the art technology in long distance learning
- Having clients benefit from the latest court preparation research which stresses both court information and practice of memory and questioning strategies

## how the program works

**Step 1:** You will require access to a computer with Internet and a computer headset with a microphone in order to participate. If you do not have these, please contact your local Victim Services Unit. Your Victim Service Unit can be very helpful in providing additional preparation.

**Step 2:** Sign into the website of the court preparation program at <http://www.childcourtprep.com>.

**Step 3:** For a free password to proceed further in the site, contact the program via email at [csica@shaw.ca](mailto:csica@shaw.ca); or call Alice at (403) 289-8385.

**Step 4:** Once you have received your password, click on either the child, teen, parent or facilitator component of the website.

**Step 5:** Explore the various information presentations, interactive games, exercises and printable handouts. In order to feel well prepared and comfortable, it is advisable to revisit the website frequently to refresh the information before going to court. The sites are always being revised with new and innovative material.

**Step 6:** The program will contact the child and family about attending live personal on-line preparation sessions with an experienced court preparation facilitator in order to practice responding to questions; refining his/her presentation style and developing memory and retrieval strategies. **CASE SPECIFICS WILL NEVER BE DISCUSSED IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF EVIDENCE.**

**Step 7:** The program will track the progression of the case and should it be advisable - as in the case of adjournments and delays - additional court preparation will be offered.

**Step 8:** You will be asked for your feedback about the experience so that the program can continue to be modified and improved.

## about the staff

### Lynn Barry (Olivier), MSW, RSW – Director

Lynn worked for over 20 years as a child welfare investigator and teaches child abuse workshops across Canada. She is a Director with the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse and has coordinated and produced "For the Kids": A Sexual Abuse Training Program for Police and Social Workers; and "You're Not Alone": A Child Witness Court Preparation Training program. She is a sessional instructor for the University of Calgary in both classroom and e-learning environments.

### Jonathan Nicholson – Legal Consultant

Jonathan is the Team Leader of the Crown Counsel in Family Law in Calgary. Prior to that he had a private law practice for 10 years and was a public school teacher. He is a past Director for the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse.

### Alice Gifford – Administrator

Alice has worked for the program for many years and is very familiar with the court process. She is critical to ensuring that children, families and community professionals are appropriately directed through the systems.



### Q U A L I F I E D F A C I L I T A T O R S

Our facilitators all have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree (generally in social work or psychology) and many have a Masters Degree. Most are either duly appointed child welfare workers for the province of Alberta or have been employed in child welfare previously. This ensures that workers are well trained in the importance of preserving a clean, uncontaminated investigation.