



# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FORENSIC STUDIES (AIAFS) *presents*

## *Seminar Two: Working with Children and Adolescents in Clinical and Forensic Settings: Neuroscience, Assessment, and Techniques*

**Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Sweeton, Psy.D., MS, MA**

**Hours: 6.0**

### **Training Description**

Effectively working with children in clinical and forensic settings, which are often stressful, can be difficult. In this seminar, attendees will be provided with a neuroscience review of common conditions seen in children who have entered the criminal justice and mental health systems. The seminar also provides attendees with helpful screening tools to evaluate executive functioning, possible abuse, impulsivity, etc. This helps professionals better understand which conditions or symptoms children may be experiencing. Finally, this presentation presents professionals with several easy-to-use tools and techniques that they can utilize with children to help them feel calmer, more focused, and more compliant.

### **Training Objectives**

1. Identify at least two ways that prenatal and childhood trauma impacts brain development.
2. Describe at least three symptoms of oppositional defiant disorder in children.
3. Name two screening tools that can be used with children in the criminal justice and mental health settings.
4. State three conditions commonly seen in children in clinical and forensic settings.
5. Name and practice at least two techniques that can help reduce children's "smoke detector" in the brain.
6. Name and practice at least two techniques that can build trust with children.

### **Presenter Biography**

Originally trained as a neuroscientist, Dr. Jennifer Sweeton is a licensed clinical psychologist, best-selling author, and internationally-recognized expert on trauma, anxiety, and the neuroscience of mental health. She is the author of the book, *Trauma Treatment Toolbox*, published by PESI Publishing & Media. Dr. Sweeton completed her doctoral training at the Stanford University School of Medicine, the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, and the National Center for PTSD. Additionally, she holds a master's degree in affective neuroscience from Stanford University, and studied behavioral genetics at Harvard University. For more information about Dr. Sweeton, visit <https://www.jennifersweeton.com/about-me>.