**Executive Summary**

***Course Title****: Investigating* APS Criminal Cases: An Advanced Course

This interactive and challenging training course is designed to advance skills learned in the Module 22 Core Curriculum about responding to criminal cases in ways that serve the program needs of APS, assist clients, and support a criminal prosecution in appropriate cases. The goal is **not** to make APS professionals part of the Criminal Justice System but to better prepare participants to recognize, document, and support cases in which a client has been the victim of a crime. How APS handles its investigation can profoundly affect whether a crime can be prosecuted. This course is intended to better prepare APS for such situations, including when APS professionals are called to testify as witnesses in various types of courts.

The following instructional strategies are used throughout the course: short lectures (lecturettes), interactive activities/exercises including individual, class and small group discussions; many of which are built around case studies, PowerPoint slides, resource material, applications for use in practice, and video clips to stimulate discussion and skill development.

**Course Requirements:**

This course was specifically designed to build upon concepts explored and mastered in NAPSA Core Curriculum Module 22. Participants should complete Module 22 (ILT or eLearning) prior to attending this course which is available at <https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/programs/apswi/core-competency-areas/>.

Experienced APS professionals with at least 18 months of field experience who have worked with the Criminal Justice System may have sufficient expertise to benefit from this Advanced Course. Those individuals should complete the Core Curriculum or complete the Self-Assessment found at <https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/programs/apswi/advanced-training/investigating-aps-criminal-cases-ilt/> to assure that they have the foundational information required for this Advanced Course. *Please note that all participants are expected fully to participate in a variety of class activities designed to enhance the learning experience and reinforce the content as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of the content.*

**Target Audience:**

This course is designed for APS professionals, including Supervisors and Training Staff who have completed the Module 22 Core Curriculum. It is also designed for experienced APS professionals with demonstrated knowledge of and experience working with the criminal justice system as well as Aging and Adult Services partners such as IHSS, Long Term Care Ombudsman, etc.

**Course Training Goal:**

To improve APS professional’s documentation, increase their ability to investigate allegations alleging criminal conduct including exploring justifications and defenses, and provide better understanding of the court process, and their role in it.

**Outcome Objectives for Participants:**

By the end of this training participants will be able to:

1. Describe the role of APS professionals in cases in which a client has been the victim of a crime
2. Enhance the APS professional’s understanding of the relationship between effective documentation and likelihood the case will result in filing of charges and prosecution
   1. Identify the elements of effective documentation
   2. Describe the link between effective documentation by an APS professional and later testifying in a court case
3. Describe relevant defenses to various forms of older and vulnerable adult abuse
4. Demonstrate the ability to read and understand a criminal statute and identify its elements
5. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate a fact pattern to prove the elements of a crime
6. Understand the role of the APS professional in a court setting and describe the elements of effective court testimony