

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SEX CRIMES INVESTIGATORS



2026
SEX CRIMES CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 9, 10 & 11



Sponsored by the
Lakewood Police Department

2026 CONFERENCE INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is strongly recommended as space availability is limited.

Registrants will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of registration.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Friday, August 28, 2026

Registration cancellations must be made in writing. All fees will be refunded 100% when requested prior to Friday, August 26, 2026. No exceptions to this policy will be considered since funds will be fully committed to the production of the seminar. Training registrations may be transferred to another person, without penalty, with notification to a CASCI representative.

REGISTER ONLINE:

www.CASCI.net

PAYMENTS:

You may register and pay online with Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

COST:

Conference tuition is \$595. Tuition includes all materials and handouts; continental breakfasts on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; and buffet lunch on Wednesday and Thursday.



PRECONFERENCE – INTRO TO SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATION

Tuesday, September 8

THIS FREE COURSE provides beginner information and resources to strengthen your investigation and prosecution of adult sexual assault cases.

LOCATION:

Combined Law Enforcement Facility
2027 Shield Dr.
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

REGISTER separately for the preconference at:

[Intro to Sexual Assault Investigation](#)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

INVESTIGATORS
INSTRUCTORS
DETECTIVES
SUPERVISORS
VICTIM ADVOCATES
PROSECUTORS
PATROL OFFICERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Linda Johnston at linda@cdac.state.co.us

EVAW and CASCI team up to bring you FREE training in Steamboat Springs on Tuesday, September 8th, the day before the CASCI conference begins.

Come and stay at The Steamboat Grand on September 7th for the same reduced CASCI rates, attend the free training, then jump straight into the CASCI conference.



AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST PROVIDED
REGISTRATION

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

BEHIND THE WHEEL:
UNMASKING A SERIAL PREDATOR THROUGH TEAMWORK AND STRATEGY

Denver Senior Deputy District Attorney Holly Snead
Chatham County Assistant District Attorney Matt Schlager

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

BUFFET LUNCH PROVIDED

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SERIAL SEXUAL ASSAULT:
OFFENDER BEHAVIORS AND LINKAGE ANALYSIS
FBI Supervisory Special Agent Alix Skelton

5:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

NETWORKING EVENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST PROVIDED

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

BEYOND TAKEN:
HOW HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACTUALLY APPEARS IN OUR COMMUNITIES
Denver District Attorney Human Trafficking Director Jennifer Sisk
Adams County District Attorney Investigator Adam Lewis

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

BUFFET LUNCH PROVIDED

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

THE TRAUMA-INFORMED INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION:
BUILDING CASES FOR A RELUCTANT JURY

Denver Chief Deputy District Attorney Anthony Santos
Arapahoe County Chief Deputy District Attorney Neillie Fields

5:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

NETWORKING EVENT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST PROVIDED

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

VIOLENT ONLINE NETWORKS
FBI Supervisory Special Agent Janette Taylor
FBI Victim Specialist Christi Pahl
FBI Supervisory Child/Adolescent Forensic Interviewer Stephanie Knapp

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:
REAL LIABILITY-PROSECUTING AI-RELATED SEX CRIMES IN COLORADO

Senior Assistant Attorney General Trina Kissel

12:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

2026 CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Behind the Wheel: Unmasking a Serial Predator Through Teamwork and Strategy

Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Denver Senior Deputy District Attorney
Holly Snead
Chatham County Assistant District Attorney
Matt Schlager**

This case study, presented by the lead prosecutors, examines the investigation and prosecution of *The People v. John Pastor-Mendoza*, a complex, multi-victim serial sexual assault case involving a defendant who posed as a ride-share driver to target vulnerable women in Denver.

Between 2018 and 2022, the defendant kidnapped twelve women and carried out a series of sexual assaults and attempted assaults, often exploiting victims who were alone, intoxicated, or otherwise vulnerable. The case presented significant challenges, including delayed reporting, limited victim memory, digital and forensic evidence issues, and the need to identify and connect multiple victims across incidents.

Through a detailed multidisciplinary lens, this training will explore investigative strategies, victim-centered approaches, and trial preparation in a serial offender case. Presenters will address the use of DNA and digital evidence to establish

patterns of conduct, the complexities of working with trauma-impacted victims, and the coordination required among prosecutors, investigators, and victim advocates.

The session will also provide insight into trial strategy in a high-stakes, multi-count prosecution, including managing jury expectations, presenting pattern evidence, and supporting victims through the trial process.

Designed for prosecutors, investigators, and victim advocates, this case study highlights the importance of collaboration, persistence, and a trauma-informed approach in achieving accountability in complex sexual assault cases.

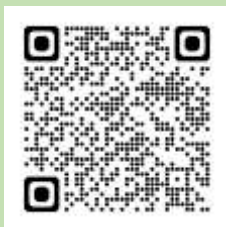
Serial Sexual Assault: Offender Behaviors and Linkage Analysis

Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

FBI Supervisory Special Agent Alix Skelton

This presentation will focus on understanding sexual assault series and best practices for investigation and prosecution. The instructor will discuss victim selection, offender behavior over the course of the series, motivation, and linkage analysis. The presentation will also include case studies on adjudicated sexual assault series.

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Beyond Taken: How Human Trafficking Actually Appears in Our Communities

Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Denver District Attorney Human Trafficking Unit Director Jennifer Sisk

Douglas County District Attorney Investigator Adam Lewis

Through a case study of an Adams County human trafficking case, the presentation will focus on best practices in building trust with human trafficking survivors, how to investigate human trafficking cases, including using digital and financial evidence to strengthen cases, and how to build a successful prosecution. We will focus on both successes and lessons learned.

The Trauma-Informed Investigation and Prosecution: Building Cases for a Reluctant Jury

Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Denver Chief Deputy District Attorney Anthony Santos

Arapahoe County Chief Deputy District Attorney Neillie Fields

Crimes rooted in trauma - particularly sexual assault – present distinct investigative challenges from the very first call. Victims may minimize, recant, or completely disengage from the process, while witnesses may appear inconsistent or unreliable. These behaviors are often misinterpreted not only by jurors, but by system practitioners themselves. When trauma-driven reactions are mistaken for deception, cases can be unintentionally weakened long before they reach a courtroom.

This course is designed to strengthen investigators' and their teams' ability to recognize and respond to the realities of trauma throughout case development. Participants will examine how trauma affects memory, communication, and

behavior – and what those impacts mean for interviews, evidence-gathering, suspect contact, and documentation. The session emphasizes practical, field-applicable techniques: how to build rapport with victims, conduct effective trauma-informed interviews, identify corroboration that aligns with trauma-shaped narratives, and collaborate with prosecutors early to prevent avoidable evidentiary gaps.

The training also prepares law enforcement and prosecutors for a key downstream challenge: jurors who may themselves feel overwhelmed, confused, or distressed by trauma-heavy evidence. Participants learn how investigative choices – the questions asked, the statements captured, the details preserved – directly influence jurors' ability to understand the case later on. The focus is on building cases that are structurally stronger, more coherent, and easier for jurors to engage with rather than react against.

A trauma-informed approach is not about lowering expectations or accepting weaker investigations. It is about sharpening them: understanding trauma so that cases are built more effectively, victims are supported in ways that enhance – not compromise – evidence, and the facts are ultimately presented in a way jurors can understand.

Learning Objectives

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

- Identify common trauma-related behaviors (minimization, recanting, inconsistencies, disengagement) and distinguish them from indicators of deception.
- Explain how trauma impacts memory, sequencing, communication, and post-event behavior – and apply that knowledge to investigative decision-making.
- Conduct trauma-informed victim and witness interviews that improve clarity, accuracy, and victim engagement, while also recognizing and documenting corroborating evidence that aligns with how trauma affects reporting and recall. Anticipate and mitigate juror misunderstanding by structuring investigations and reports that clearly convey trauma-consistent behavior.

Violent Online Networks

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FBI Supervisory Special Agent Janette Taylor

FBI Victim Specialist Christi Pahl

FBI Supervisory Child/Adolescent Interviewer Stephanie Knapp

Violent online networks, sometimes associated with nihilistic violent extremism (NVE), are decentralized groups that evolved from early anonymous internet communities into coordinated, harm-driven subcultures. These networks use anonymity, cross-platform mobility, and digital tools to groom, coerce, and exploit vulnerable individuals while pursuing chaos, notoriety, and control. Their tactics include intimidation, extortion, swatting, and escalating manipulation, making early detection, through documentation, and coordinated multi-disciplinary law enforcement response essential to identifying victims and disrupting network activity.

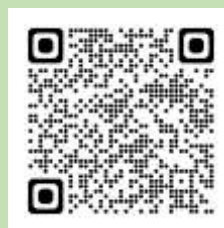
Artificial Intelligence: Real Liability – Prosecuting AI-related Sex Crimes in Colorado

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Senior Assistant Attorney General Trina Kissel

This presentation will discuss prosecuting AI-related sex crimes in Colorado, including recent legislative changes to the sexual exploitation of a child statute, updates on AI-related case law in the state, and notable legal developments from other jurisdictions.

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2026 ACCOMMODATIONS & ROOM AVAILABILITY

The Steamboat Grand

2305 Mt. Werner Circle

Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Reservations: 877-269-2628

[Reservations Online](#)

Room rates per night:

Run of House (King, Double Queen, Studio) \$168
or

2-Bedroom 1-King 1-Queen 2-Bath Condo \$370

Prices do not include 7% resort fee

You must book prior to August 7, 2026, to ensure the discounted rates.



Steamboat Springs

Escape to Steamboat Springs, where authentic mountain charm meets year-round adventure. Known as "Ski Town U.S.A.®," this vibrant alpine community offers legendary powder, scenic hiking and biking trails, and a lively downtown filled with local boutiques, art galleries, and inviting restaurants. Whether you're carving fresh tracks in winter or exploring wildflower covered meadows in the summer, Steamboat delivers unforgettable Rocky Mountain experiences.

Unwind after a day of adventure in the area's famous natural hot springs. From family-friendly activities to luxurious lodging and authentic Western hospitality, Steamboat Springs is the perfect destination to reconnect, recharge, and rediscover the spirit of the mountains.



Amenities & Services

- An 85,000-gallon heated outdoor pool and two hot tubs
- Health Club with fitness machines, free weights, and locker rooms with a sauna and steam room
- Parking and Bell Services
- EV Charge Stations
- Daily housekeeping
- Hotel shuttle
- Complimentary laundry machines
- Rollaway beds are available for select room types at a rate of \$15 per night, with limit of one per room. Availability subject to room configuration. Contact the Front Desk to request prior to arrival.
- Purified water refill stations
- Vending and Ice Machines
- 24-hour front desk services
- Lost & Found



Hotel Reservations

Attendees **MUST** make their own lodging arrangements. The Steamboat Grand in Steamboat Springs has several different room sizes to choose from based on availability.

Attendees will have the choice of Run of House (King, Double Queen, Studio) or 2-Bedroom 1-King 1-Queen 2-Bath Condo. There are also upgrade room types based on availability.

Attendees will receive special room rates. When making reservations. Please inform the Reservations Department that you are a guest of CASCI to receive the discounted rate.

Make your reservations early because the number of rooms are limited.

CASCI

c/o Lakewood Police Department
445 S. Allison Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80226
cascisteamboat@gmail.com

Colorado Association of Sex Crimes Investigators
and the Lakewood Police Department
proudly present:

CASCI 2026



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MISSION STATEMENT

- To establish a spirit of cooperation among sexual assault investigators and members of related disciplines.
- To facilitate an exchange of information on the investigation and prosecution of sexual assaults.
- To further understand the victimology of sexual assaults.
- To provide a consistent standard of excellence in sexual assault investigations and treatment of offenders.
- To raise collective voices to encourage the integrity and quality of sexual assault investigations.
- To support legislation consistent with the interests of the victims and community.
- To commit to providing low cost, high quality training seminars and conferences related to all phases of sexual assault investigation.

TESTIMONIALS



"FANTASTIC! It was my first CASCI conference. I would definitely like to come again. Best conference I've gone to in a long while."

"I was REALLY IMPRESSED with the conference, from the location to the speakers."

"GREAT SPEAKERS. Venue is wonderful, CASCI very catering!"

"WELL ORGANIZED. Excellent speakers!"

"Very good speakers. Wonderful hotel, BEAUTIFUL SCENERY. I would absolutely come back!"

"The people who set it up from Lakewood were extremely FRIENDLY and helpful."

"This is ONE OF THE BEST CONFERENCES at a national level!"

"This is my first trip to CASCI and I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MYSELF. The speakers were excellent, the setting was beautiful and it was well worth the trip."

" I HOPE TO COME BACK NEXT YEAR."