



OSPD 2026 SPRING FAMILY DEFENSE CERTIFICATION TRAINING
Cadence Bank Arena
Tupelo, Mississippi
March 18-19, 2026

AGENDA

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

- 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.** **Registration**
East Hall Foyer
- 12:45 p.m.- 1:00 p.m.** **Welcome and Announcements**
Sweet Gum
André de Gruy, State Public Defender
Jennifer Morgan, Parent Defense Program Director
Erin Briggs, Training Director
Office of State Public Defender
Jackson, Mississippi
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** **Mental Health in Mississippi (1.00 hours)**
Dwayne Nelson, Juvenile Mental Health Coordinator
Mississippi Department of Mental Health
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.** **Evaluations & Break**
- 2:10 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.** **SPOTLIGHT: MS Access to Justice**
- 2:15 p.m. – 3: 15 p.m.** **Reasonable Efforts (1.00 hours)**
Shannon Felder, JD, CWLS
NACC National Association of Counsel for Children
- 3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** **Evaluations & Break**
- 3:30 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.** **SPOTLIGHT**
- 3:35 p.m. – 5:05 p.m.** **MDCPS Policy (1.50 hours)**
Casey Williams, Senior Assistant Deputy Commissioner-South
Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services
- 5:05 p.m. –5:10 p.m.** **Evaluations and Announcements**

Thursday, March 19, 2026

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** **Breakfast**
Sweetgum
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.** **ETHICS: Avoiding Burn-Out/Prioritizing Self-Care (1 hr)**
Magnolia
Alissa Hebert-Wallace, DSW, LCSW
Healing Spaces
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** **Evaluations & Hotel Check-Out**
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:05 p.m.** **SPOTLIGHT: Mississippi Administrative Office of Courts**
- 10:05 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.** **Reframed: Understanding Addiction, Protecting Children (1.00 hours)**
Christina Dent, Founder & VP of Mission
End It For Good
- 11:05 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.** **Evaluations**
- 11:15 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.** **SPOTLIGHT: Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Inc.**
- 11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.** **Case Law Update (1.00 hours)**
Chad King, Partner
Thompson Law Firm, pllc
Matthew Thompson, Partner
Thompson Law Firm, pllc
- 12:20 p.m. – 12:25 p.m.** **Evaluations & Conference Check-Out**
- 12:25 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.** **Lunch**
Sweetgum