



Alaska Children's Alliance

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Alaska receives certification as a ChildFirst State!

In January 2014 Alaska joined 19 other states as well as Japan and Columbia in becoming certified as a ChildFirst state, in collaboration with the National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC). We also graduated our third group of *ChildFirst Alaska* students. Although the Alaska Children's Alliance (ACA) is the lead organization on this project, it is a joint effort by the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Law, Office of Children's Services, UAA Child Welfare Academy and Child Advocacy Center staff and Multidisciplinary Team members. This project is also generously supported by The Rasmuson Foundation, Alaskan Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), the Western Regional Child Advocacy Center and the National Children's Alliance.

Fourteen law enforcement from ten communities, ten Office of Children's Services staff serving seven communities, one assistant district attorney and five Child Advocacy Center staff from two areas were certified in this nationally recognized, best-practice model during this session.



Actors are crucial in their roles as child victims for the practice interviews required for certification. L to R: Diane Benson, Vivian Melde, Kelly Wilson, Tony Vita, Nava Sarracino

ChildFirst Alaska Faculty and National Child Protection Training Center Staff celebrate Alaska receiving certification as a ChildFirst state L to R: Rita Farrell, NCPTC; Susanne Walters, NCPTC; Ginny Moring, Lori Markkanen, Lee Bruce, Johana McMahan, Tisha Simmons, Brittany Dunlop, Amy Russell, Executive Director NCPTC; Milton Bohac, Deven Cunningham, and Pam Karalunas, Chapter Coordinator, Alaska Children's Alliance. Not pictured: Jessica Lawmaster, CFA faculty

