

Structured Decision-Making (SDM®)



Training Catalogue

Structured Decision-Making (SDM®) training, support and resources are designed for Child and Family Protection Supervisors working to adapt SDM® and IPS (integrated practice strategies) into their Service Model. The goal of SDM® is to reduce subsequent harm or maltreatment for children and families, and to expediate permanency and safe reunification. SDM® Systems follow a Policy and Procedures Manual.

SDM® Systems:

- Help child protection workers and supervisors make decisions in several areas of child and family management.
- Use defined decision-making criteria to screen for investigation, determine response priority, identify immediate threatened harm, and estimate the risk of future abuse and neglect.
- Consider the needs and strengths of children and families in developing and monitoring case plans.

We actively engage Elder/Knowledge Keepers and honour their sacred teachings. We practice having an Elder/Knowledge Keeper present in each of our training deliveries to provide wisdom, guidance, and learner support.

SDM® Intake Assessment

The screening section of the intake assessment helps child abuse hotline workers determine if the current report requires a child protective services (CPS) investigation response. The response priority section helps workers determine how swiftly an investigation must be initiated for those reports accepted for investigation.

SDM® Safety Assessment

The assessment helps workers at all points in a case determine if a child may safely remain in the home, with or without a safety plan in place. A second safety assessment, customized for use in foster and substitute care, has also been developed.

SDM® Risk Assessment

This actuarial assessment estimates the likelihood of future child and family services system involvement and assists investigation workers in determining which cases should be continued for ongoing services and which may be closed at the end of an investigation.

SDM® Family Strengths and Needs Assessment (FSNA)

The FSNA informs case planning by structuring the worker's assessment of family caregivers and all children across a common set of domains of family functioning. For the case plan, priority areas of need are chosen as the focus of efforts to improve family functioning and child safety.

SDM® Risk Reassessment

For families receiving in-home services, the actuarial risk reassessment helps the ongoing service worker determine when risk has been reduced sufficiently that the case may be recommended for closure.

SDM® Reunification Assessment

For families with a child in out-of-home care with a goal of reunification, this assessment helps the worker determine when a child may safely be returned to the home, or when a change in permanency goal should be considered. The assessment has three sections that focus on risk, caregiver-child visitation, and safety.

Integrated Practice Strategies Training

Progressive Visitation
Integrating IPS & SDM® into Safety Planning
Integrating IPS & SDM® into Case Planning
Supervising Worker's Practice: Progressive Visitation
Supervising Worker's Practice: Safety Planning
Supervising Worker's Practice: Case Planning
IPS Safety House
IPS Three Houses
Solution Focused Questions
IPS Networking Tools
Engaging Families in Crucial Conversations
Progressive Visitation Planning: Refresher
CAP Framework
Gems of Clarity

SDM® On-Call (Intake and Safety)

Course Length: 2 days

This two-day SDM on-call training is designed to help participants understand when and how to use the SDM Intake Assessment and SDM Safety Assessments tools while providing after-hour Child Protection Services.

Participants will be guided through the process of completing the SDM Intake and Safety assessments, with a focus on understanding the appropriate timing and context for their use. Participants will also engage in hands-on practice using on-call scenarios to reinforce their learning.

In child welfare work with families, various questions and decisions arise throughout the case process.

The SDM system is designed to support workers in answering these questions and making informed decisions. Each SDM assessment aligns with a specific decision point or case-related question. For example, when a referral is received, the on-call or emergency duty worker must decide whether an in-

person investigation is warranted. The SDM Intake Assessment's screening tool helps guide this decision-making process.

When an investigation is deemed necessary, the Response Priority tool helps determine the urgency of the response. While ideally every referral would receive an immediate response, limited resources require prioritization.

This tool supports workers in deciding which cases need immediate attention and which can be addressed within five days. Once face-to-face contact is made, the next decision is whether the child can safely remain in the home or requires protective placement. The SDM Safety Assessment guides this decision by evaluating safety threats and identifying whether a safety plan can mitigate those risks.

SFNFCI Training Policy

Training Offerings

Our current training delivery model supports SFNFCI in offering a certain number of training sessions annually. This guides our planning and helps us maintain high-quality delivery within budgetary constraints.

Training courses are scheduled based on the evolving needs of our audience. This flexible approach ensures that each session is timely and relevant, aligning with current demand and maximizing impact.

Registration

Registration for a SFNFCI event (training or conference) is done using our online registration process. Please check the SFNFCI website Calendar of Events for current offerings. <https://sfnfci.ca/latest-events/>

Participants are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis so be sure to register by the deadline date to guarantee your spot. If the event is full, you will automatically be added to a waitlist and contacted if spaces open. If the registration deadline has passed and if there are still spots available, your registration may be accepted. Please contact SFNFCI at [\(306\) 373-2874](tel:3063732874).

Withdrawal

We understand that schedule changes are sometimes unavoidable. However, the following procedures are in place to ensure we can consistently deliver quality training and conferences.

If you must withdraw your registration, you may send another person in your place. Please advise SFNFCI of any changes.

If substitution is not an option and you need to withdraw your registration, contact SFNFCI at [\(306\) 373-2874](tel:3063732874). You will be sent a withdrawal form to complete and submit. Once a completed withdrawal form is received, SFNFCI staff will process your withdrawal and may issue a refund based on eligibility.

Cancellation

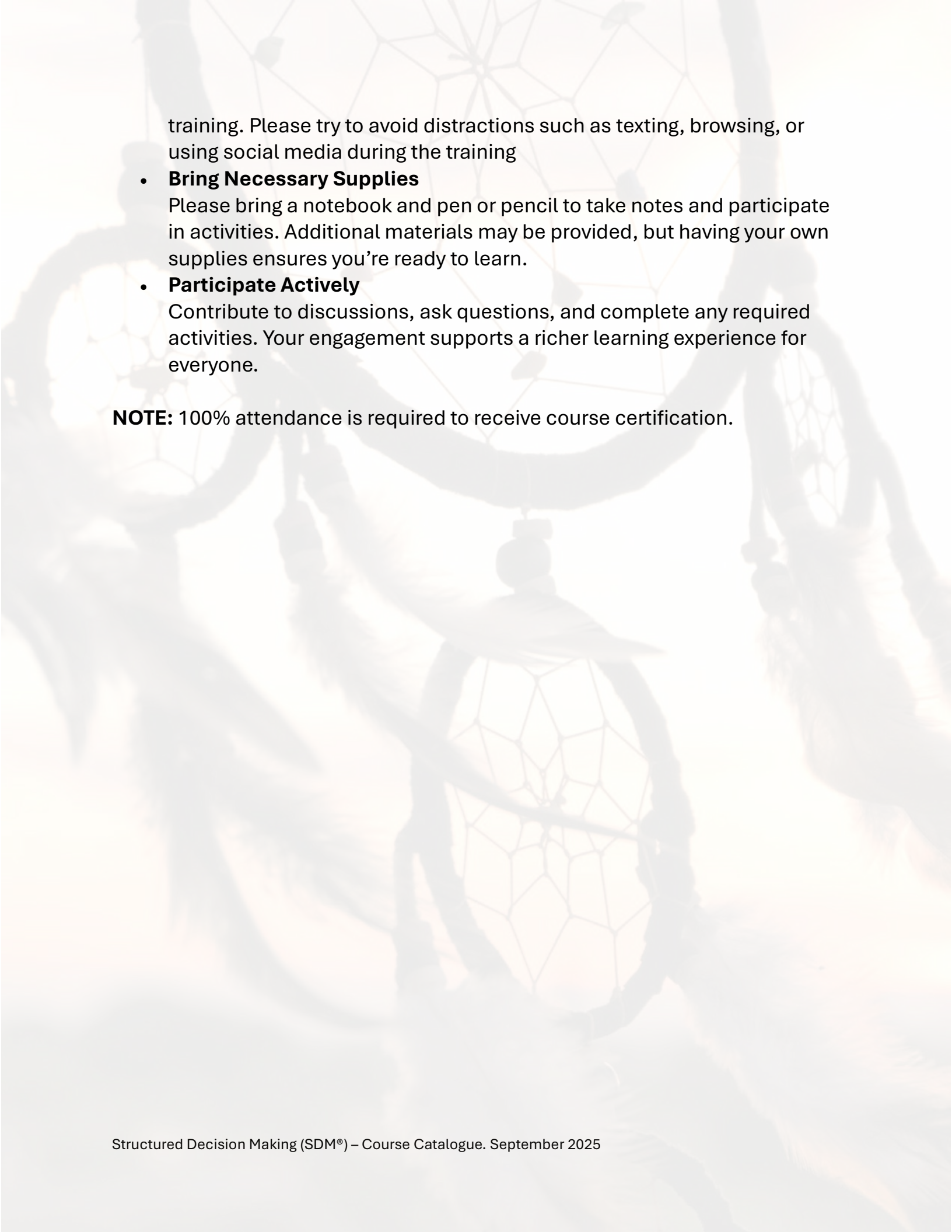
SFNFCI reserves the right to cancel any training and/or event. If this occurs, SFNFCI will make every effort to reschedule it within 6-12 months.

If SFNFCI must cancel a training/event for any reason beyond its control, it will not be held liable for any related costs incurred by participants or their organizations. In this unlikely event, SFNFCI will offer a full refund of event fees if the event has not yet started, or a pro-rated refund if the event has already begun. Circumstances beyond SFNFCI's control include, and are not limited to, human-induced and/or natural disasters.

Learner Expectations

To ensure a positive and productive learning experience for everyone, we kindly ask all participants to follow these expectations:

- **Arrive Prepared and On Time**
Be punctual and ready to engage. Late arrivals may miss important content and disrupt the session. Training starts at 9:00am each day.
- **Respect the Learning Environment**
Be courteous to facilitators and fellow learners. Maintain a professional and inclusive atmosphere throughout the session. Please demonstrate respectful behavior, remember all discussions are confidential
- **Use Technology Responsibly**
Silence or turn off mobile devices unless they are needed for the



training. Please try to avoid distractions such as texting, browsing, or using social media during the training

- **Bring Necessary Supplies**

Please bring a notebook and pen or pencil to take notes and participate in activities. Additional materials may be provided, but having your own supplies ensures you're ready to learn.

- **Participate Actively**

Contribute to discussions, ask questions, and complete any required activities. Your engagement supports a richer learning experience for everyone.

NOTE: 100% attendance is required to receive course certification.