

What is A Children's Advocacy Center?



If your child
made an outcry of abuse...

... wouldn't you want the investigation, prosecution
and intervention services to be handled
in a manner sensitive to the needs of a child?

Prior to children's advocacy centers, a child's outcry of abuse didn't necessarily mean the hurt was over. For many young victims, it often meant the beginning of a stressful, scary and difficult journey through our adult-minded criminal and civil justice systems.

Due to the complex nature of these cases, our systems require the involvement of many different professionals to investigate, prosecute and intervene. Historically, information was not routinely shared, efforts were rarely coordinated, and obtaining successful outcomes for these child victims was virtually impossible.

Children's advocacy centers provide a safe, child friendly environment where law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical and mental health professionals can share information and develop effective, coordinated strategies sensitive to the needs of each unique case and child. Local centers provide an array of child-focused services including the following core components:

- Specialized Forensic Interviewing
- Medical/Mental Health Assessments and Treatment
- Multidisciplinary Team Case Reviews
- Comprehensive Advocacy Services