



S.a.M. Child Advocacy Center

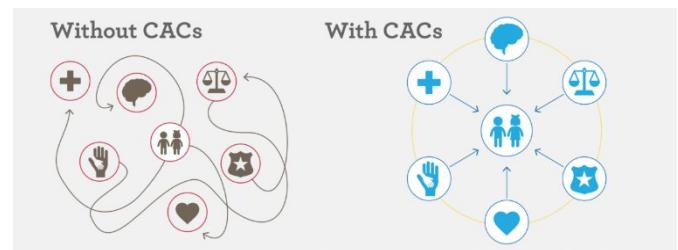
Together, healing begins here...

What is a Child Advocacy Center (CAC)?

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A child advocacy center is a private, non-profit, neutral organization that serves child victims and their non-offending/supportive family members in the Vance, Granville, Warren and Franklin county areas.

The CAC provides a systematic, multidisciplinary response to reported cases of child abuse and child witnesses to violent crimes. The development of the local CAC is based upon the need for coordinated multidisciplinary interventions to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in our local communities. The CAC is not a stand alone center, but rather a “home” for the various community professionals to serve as a vessel of communication across various agencies to support the overall well-being of the children and families within our communities.



The CAC provides a neutral child-friendly location for forensic interviews, multidisciplinary investigative teams meetings, crisis and on-going advocacy for child victims and non-offending family members, referrals to appropriate community resources, referral to child medical exams (CMEs), referrals to therapeutic services, and community awareness related to child abuse.

With the use of CACs, the overall trauma to children and families is reduced utilizing the collaborated and multisystemic approach. Children are interviewed one time, with all involved agencies having access to the interview and all interactions. This leads to the lower risk of overall trauma to the child having to retell their account multiple times, reducing the risk of recantations, and often times, feeling more apt to open up about their account as the CAC is a neutral party that does not make any big decisions in regards to the case and the outcomes.

Brief History of Child Advocacy Centers:

Former Congressman and district attorney Robert E. “Bud” Cramer, of Huntsville Alabama revolutionized the United States’ response to child abuse and neglect. Cramer recognized the disconnect and lack of communication between law enforcement agencies, local department of social services, and the criminal justice system in the cases of abused children. Cramer helped developed the CAC model of a Multidisciplinary Team approach to each of these cases. This approach brought together teams of law enforcement, prosecutors, child protective services, medical persons, mental health persons, and CAC advocates to work together to create what is now known as Child Advocacy Centers.

Mission:

The mission of the CAC is to reduce the devastating long-term effects of abuse on children, their families, and society by providing a safe place for children to receive empathetic, comprehensive services.

Multidisciplinary Team Includes, but is not limited to:

- Law Enforcement
- Department of Social Services
- District Attorney's Office
- Mental Health
- Medical Provider
- Child Advocacy Center

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