

HOW DOES THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER MODEL WORK?



Function Provided by a Team Member



Core Function of CAC

Law Enforcement

The role of local law enforcement is grounded in public safety.

If not criminal in nature, law enforcement may not take action.



Immediate Response



DSS / CPS

The role of DSS is to ensure that a child's home is safe.

If the family/caretaker is not the alleged abuser, DSS may not take action.



Priority Assigned
(24-72 HOURS)



Child is brought to Children's Advocacy Center



Joint Investigation Begins

Forensic Interview, Evidence Collected, Photos Taken, Witness Interview, Medical Treatment and Exam



CAC coordinates Case Review with all team members including law enforcement, prosecutor, CPS / DSS, the forensic interviewer, a mental health provider, a medical professional and a family advocate.



Case presented to Solicitor's Office



Suspect Charged or Case Refused



Child and family receive mental health services. Family advocate works with family to assess critical resources and provide support as the case moves through the justice system.



Child Removed from Home OR Case Opened for Services OR Case Closed