



## MINNESOTA CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

The Minnesota Children's Alliance leads the development and growth of locally based children's advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams to ensure access to services for healing and growth.

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Minnesota offer a safe place for people (children, adolescents, and vulnerable adults) who may have experienced sexual abuse, physical abuse, sexual exploitation or witnessed a violent crime.

CACs are person-centered facilities in which an interdisciplinary team of law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical, and victim advocacy professionals work together to investigate allegations of abuse, help victims heal from abuse, and hold offenders accountable.

### Leadership

Develops strong relationships with national, state and local partners as the leading resource on child abuse issues. The Alliance equips, develops and strengthens children's advocacy center leaders and multidisciplinary teams.

### Technical Assistance

Provides expertise in establishing new children's advocacy center and multidisciplinary programs, developing protocols, achieving national accreditation and crafting policies so local children's advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams are successful.

### Training

Offers professional development and training to multidisciplinary team members and children's advocacy center staff, guaranteeing they remain current on research and best practices in the field.

### Program Support

Assists new and existing children's advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams develop a strong child abuse response and trauma-informed services.



# Minnesota's CACs honor and respect the rich diversity of the families we serve.

## Our culturally sensitive services include:

**Forensic Interviews:** CACs conduct neutral, fact-finding forensic interviews that provide an opportunity for individuals to talk about their experience. The interviews are person-centered and take into account the emotional and physical needs of the individual. Each interviewer is specially trained to talk to individuals about the experiences in a manner that is both developmentally appropriate and responsive to the individual's needs. CACs recognize that a single forensic interview can occur in one session or it can occur over several sessions. It all depends on the needs of the individual.

**Medical Evaluations:** Specialized medical evaluations and treatment are available to all CAC clients regardless of their ability to pay. Evaluations are conducted by highly specialized physicians who advise on future treatments or clinically supervised Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners – Pediatric (SANE-P).

**Mental Health Services:** Specialized trauma-focused mental health services are available to all CAC clients and their families regardless of their ability to pay. Services can include therapy, counseling, trauma assessments, chemical dependency assessments, and dual diagnosis assessments.

**Victim Support and Advocacy:** Victim support and advocacy services are routinely made available to all CAC clients and their non-offending family members. Advocates work closely with community partners to connect families with the resources, information and support they need throughout the investigation and criminal justice process.

**Case Review:** Case review provides the forum to make team decisions about the investigation, treatment, management and prosecution of child abuse cases. Multidisciplinary teams evaluate the needs of children and families during case review, which improves the quality and efficiency of investigations and guarantees that critical follow-up services are provided.

For more on the Alliance and child abuse in Minnesota contact

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