



Child
Advocacy
Center

Services Provided

Advocacy

Forensic Interview

Medical Exams

Mental Health

Mdt Facilitation

Community Education

Prevention



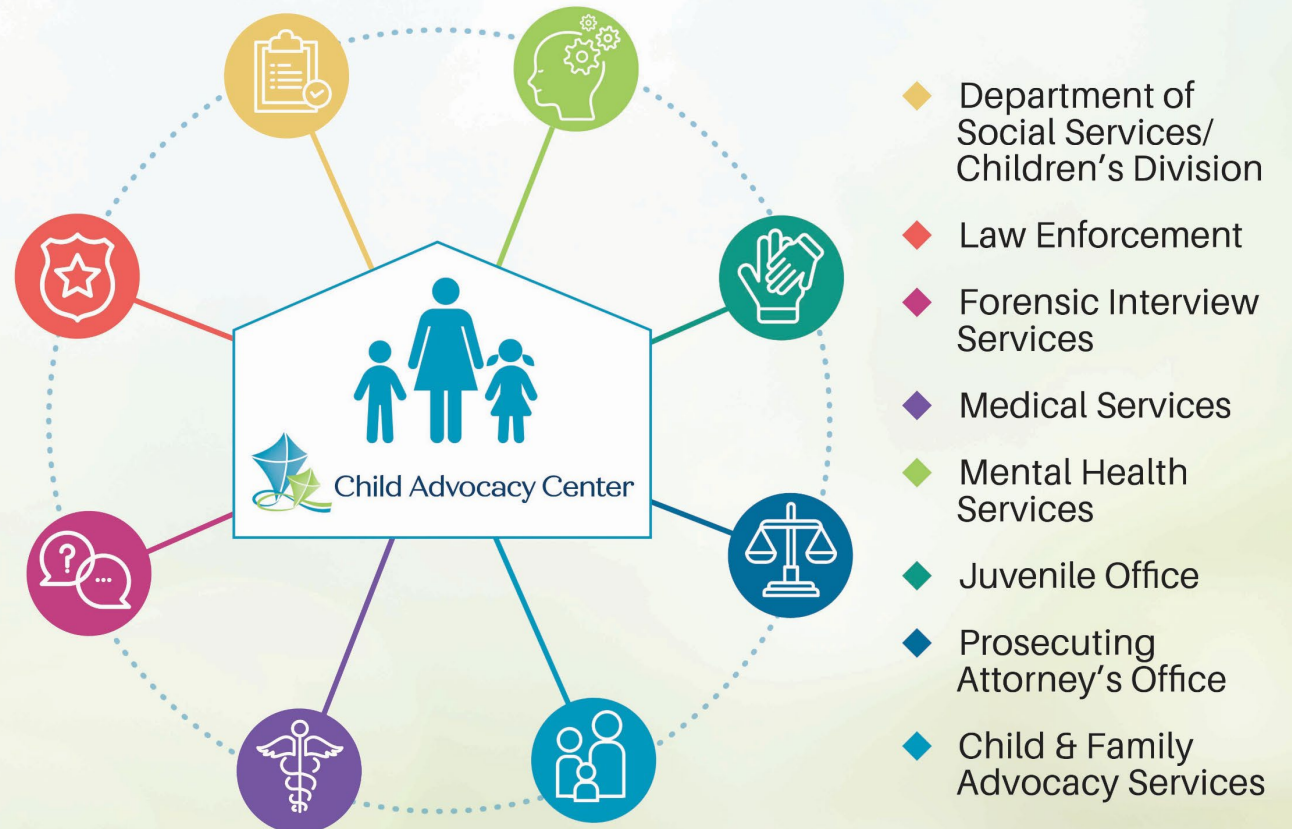
When kids are abused, the process to investigate can be really hard to navigate.



Without Child Advocacy Center



With Child Advocacy Center



We Create A

Safe Place Where Kids Can Talk Openly

About What Happened
**Without Causing
More Pain**



We Work To
Help Kids Heal
So They Can
Get Back To
Being Kids.



2025 Impact



1,727

Children Served



1,564

Forensic Interviews



1,367

Medical Exams





DR. JOHN P. FERGUSON CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

HICKORY

POLK

DALLAS

GREENE



WEBSTER

WRIGHT

TEXAS

CHRISTIAN

DOUGLAS

HOWELL

SHANNON

OREGON

TANEY

OZARK



**Service
Area**

Abuse Takes **Many Forms & Happens Anywhere**



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**5 Things You
Need To Know**

1

What is abuse?

- **Physical Abuse**
- **Sexual Abuse**
- **Emotional Abuse**
- **Neglect**
 - **Basic Needs**
 - **Medical**
 - **Educational**
- **Exploitation**
- **Trafficking**



Who Perpetrates?

- **90% of child abuse victims like, love, or live with their abuser.**
- **Not all abusers are adults. Children and teens can also harm peers or younger youth.**
- **Abuse is about power, not just violence.**



Abuse Statistics

1 in 10

US kids are sexually abused before their 18th birthday



74%

of child abuse cases in the US are neglect.

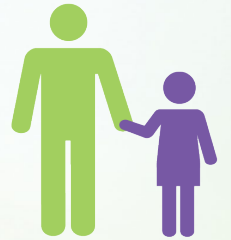


1 in 9

youth experience online sexual exploitation



52%



of child abuse is identified by school personnel, but 2/3 of school personnel do not receive training specific to abuse.

Kids Rarely **Speak Up First**



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**5 Things You
Need To Know**

2

KIDS RARELY SPEAK UP FIRST

- Most children don't disclose abuse. When they do, it is often not direct.
- You can help children speak up by recognizing their behaviors and asking about their wellbeing.
- Children who do tell, often only attempt disclosure once.



Safe Adults **Listen, Believe, and Act**



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**5 Things You
Need To Know**

3

Safe Adults Listen, Believe, and Act

Listen

- Remain calm
- Pay attention and be present
- Don't dismiss or downplay

Believe

- Take it seriously
- Thank them for trusting you
- When children disclose, they learn if someone is going to stand up for them or if they will be sacrificed for the comfort of others

Act

- Report your concerns to MO Child Abuse Hotline 800-392-3738
- Anyone can report abuse or neglect 24/7
- Silence protects abusers



Boundaries and Consent Start Early



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**5 Things You
Need To Know**

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Boundaries and Consent Start Early

Teach kids:

- Anatomical body names
- Permission to be Touched
- Secrets vs. Surprises

Model:

- Healthy boundaries
- How to say “no”

These actions empower children with the tools to recognize and respond to uncomfortable situations.



You Can Protect Children



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**5 Things You
Need To Know**

5

You Can Protect Children

- Overall, the vast majority of child sexual abuse allegations are true.
- Trust your instincts. They are telling you something is off.
- You don't have to be a parent or professional to make a difference.
- Talk to someone you trust for guidance and support other adults who are protecting children.
- Encourage open dialogues with frequent, thoughtful check-ins about how kids are doing and what they're experiencing
- Act, even if you're unsure. It's better to report and be wrong than to stay silent and risk a child's safety.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

SCAN TO
LEARN | GIVE | VOLUNTEER
or visit ChildAdvocacyCenter.org



LEARN

Learn more about the CAC, its impact in our community, and how you can protect kids.



GIVE

Donate today to ensure critical services are available to children facing abuse investigations.



VOLUNTEER

Partner with us to show children they matter.



Child Advocacy Center

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WEST PLAINS MO 65775

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