

REDUCING TRAUMA, PROVIDING SUPPORT

Family Support Services are integral to the Children's Advocacy Center's on-going mission to reduce trauma and provide support to child victims of abuse and their families. The CAC works to facilitate each child's healing process within a nurturing environment. The Center strives also to protect each family's right to recover from the stressful consequences of a child's disclosure of sexual abuse.

For the hundreds of child survivors of sexual abuse who walk through the CAC's door each year, the Center's Family Support Services contribute to their recovery. The immediate psychological needs of survivors and non-offending family members—the fear they face and the uncertainty they feel—are attended to by the counseling staff and intervention programs provided by the Center.

Counseling services at the CAC are supported by funds from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (UOCA).



United Way Member Agency



Founding Member of National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers



FAMILY
SUPPORT
SERVICES



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CRISIS INTERVENTION

Immediate assistance is available at the CAC for children and families experiencing a major stressor associated with sexual abuse such as risk of suicide, running away or domestic violence. The goal of crisis intervention is to stabilize the family, offer information and support, and provide appropriate referrals for other needed services.

SHORT TERM COUNSELING

After a child makes a disclosure of abuse, the child and his or her family often experience substantial levels of confusion and stress, which can place the family in a crisis state. To provide support during this time, short-term counseling (individual, family and/or group sessions) is available at the Center. Counseling is also available as an interim service while families are awaiting counseling elsewhere.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

This weekly program is designed to help non-offending parents or caretakers through the aftermath of disclosure. Facilitated by a Licensed Social Worker on the CAC staff, the evening group meetings provide education as well as much-needed support.

SURVIVOR GROUPS

Group interventions can help child survivors learn healthy coping skills and normalize their experiences. Educational and support groups for abuse survivors, pre-school through adolescence, are available at the CAC.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE EVALUATIONS

In addition to coordinating and conducting Victim Sensitive Interviews (VSIs), the CAC also provides abuse evaluations that can aid the investigative team in determining the occurrence of sexual abuse by gathering forensically sound facts over time. An abuse evaluation can be done after a child has completed a VSI but has not yet made a disclosure of abuse, or discloses only limited information. The evaluation consists of four to eight sessions conducted in the CAC's non-threatening environment.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ASSESSMENTS

When there is reason to believe (due to behavioral indicators) that sexual abuse may have occurred, but the child has not made any disclosures nor participated in a VSI, a sexual abuse assessment can be completed at the Center. The assessment consists of approximately four sessions with the child, as well as an interview with the primary caretaker. Referrals can be made by parents, mental health workers, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and the police.

BILINGUAL SERVICES

The CAC offers bilingual services to meet the needs of Spanish speaking families who have experienced sexual abuse. These services include crisis intervention, short term counseling and ongoing educational support groups for non-offending parents and/or caretakers.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

An array of supportive services are available to families who are experiencing significant stressors and need additional support after an allegation of sexual abuse. Case management services can include assessments, linkage to community services, home visits, crisis intervention and referral coordination of wrap-around services.

MUNICIPALITIES SERVED

Arlington Heights
Barrington (Cook County)
Barrington Hills
Bartlett
Buffalo Grove (Cook County)
Des Plaines
Elgin (Cook County)
Elk Grove Village
Evanston
Glencoe
Glenview
Golf
Hanover Park (Cook County)
Harwood Heights
Hoffman Estates
Inverness
Kenilworth
Lincolnwood
Long Grove
Morton Grove
Mount Prospect
Niles
Norridge
Northbrook
Northfield
Palatine
Park Ridge
Prospect Heights
Rolling Meadows
Roselle (Cook County)
Rosemont
Schaumburg
Schiller Park
Skokie
South Barrington
Streamwood
Wheeling
Wilmette
Winnetka
Unincorporated Second District
Unincorporated Third District

For more information regarding the Family Support Services offered by the Children's Advocacy Center, please contact the Center at (847) 885-0100.