

## WHO WE ARE

Recognizing the right of all children to a safe childhood, The Children's Advocacy Center of Northwest Cook County continuously strives to reduce trauma and provide support to child victims of violence and their families. The Center serves as a community resource to facilitate the identification, intervention and prevention of child abuse.

The goal of the CAC is to provide a multi-disciplinary approach to severe physical and child sexual abuse cases. The Center recognizes the special, unique needs of child victims, while demanding accountability for the crime of child sexual abuse/severe physical abuse.

CAC resources include an on-site medical clinic, a number of on-going support groups for children and non-offending relatives, a bi-lingual advocate, emergency response capabilities, an extensive network with both community professionals, social service agencies, volunteer-based services, community recreational programs and other appropriate agencies. The Center also provides a number of programs for public and professional education, including specialized training and referrals.



United Way Member Agency



Founding Member of National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

## RECOGNITION

The right environment combined with dedicated professionals has meant that thousands of children and their families have been helped since The Center opened in 1989. The Children's Advocacy Center has also received the following honors:

- 1992 — Accepted as a full Founding Member of the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, and also became a United Way Affiliate Agency Member
- 1992 — Executive director was named to the President's Honor Roll of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
- 1993 — The Village of Hoffman Estates won the Governor's Home Town Award and the prestigious Governor's Cup for outstanding community volunteer efforts
- 1994 — Won The President's Volunteer Action Award, co-sponsored by The Points of Light Foundation, for outstanding volunteer community service
- 1995 — Presented with the Minority Economic Resources Corporation's Family Service Award
- 1998 — Executive director received the Martin Luther King Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Minority Economic Resources Corporation
- 1998 — 2nd place plus Honorable Mention as Outstanding Community Based Agency serving Illinois crime victims, presented by Illinois Attorney General's office

## GENERAL INFORMATION



THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER  
OF NORTHWEST COOK COUNTY

A HEALING PLACE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

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## COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE CAC

**Q** How does The Center accommodate children?

**A** All services at the CAC are designed to meet the needs of children first! From scheduling interviews around a child's daily routine, to the medical exam, where the child is encouraged to explore the equipment, the child's needs come first.

**Q** How many times will a child be interviewed about his or her abuse?

**A** The primary purpose of The Children's Advocacy Center is to prevent further trauma to the child. In most cases, a child will be interviewed only once with a professional interviewer in a comfortable, child-friendly setting.

**Q** Does the CAC work for DCFS or the police?

**A** No, they work for your child. DCFS and local police departments contact the CAC after they receive a report of abuse or violence against a child. Then an Intake Coordinator quickly calls together all the parties involved: the child and non-offending parent(s), police department, DCFS and the state's attorney's office. The CAC is part of the team, but independent of any governmental agency.

**Q** Do children stay at The Center?

**A** Usually, no. The Center will help DCFS find accommodations for a child in protective custody.

**Q** What does the Advocate do at the CAC?

**A** A full-time Advocate is assigned to each case and begins by developing a relationship with the child and family that may lead to court preparation, home visits and assistance in obtaining counseling. Advocates remain in constant contact with families, ensuring that their case does not "fall between the cracks." Advocates are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Q** How many children come through The Center?

**A** Between 300 and 400 children come to The Center's 6,000 square foot facility each month through referrals from DCFS and local law enforcement agencies.

**Q** Are medical exams performed at The Center?

**A** Yes. If needed, a medical exam can be scheduled for the child. Volunteer nurses help prepare children for their exams which are conducted by a pediatrician, specializing in evaluation of sexually abused children.

**Q** What type of support groups are available?

**A** On-going support groups include Parents, Spanish-speaking, Pre-School, Elementary and Teen groups which meet on a weekly basis at The Center.

**Q** Is there a charge for any of CAC's services?

**A** No. Thanks to state, township, local United Ways and fundraising efforts, all services, including support groups are free of charge to victims and their families. Since 1989, The Center has provided services to thousands of children and family members in the Northwest Cook County area.

## 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

