



## BRIEF HISTORY

In 1989, the Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County (CAC) was originally created and funded to serve child victims of abuse and their families within Hanover Township as a program of the Hanover Township Mental Health Board. It quickly became apparent that the need for CAC's services far exceeded these boundaries. As such, CAC secured funding to expand its service area to include all communities in the Third Municipal District of Cook County as of July 1, 1990. In 1995, CAC's Board of Directors voted to expand the boundaries again to serve child victims living in the Second Municipal District of Cook County.

In 2001, we received funding through the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority to launch Safe from the Start, a program under CAC, which aims to prevent exposure to violence in children 0-5 and reduce the impact of violence on children who have already been exposed. Our agency serves clients out of three offices located in Hoffman Estates, Arlington Heights, and Skokie. Our primary service area is 38 north and northwest suburbs in Cook County with a combined population of 1.2 million people. All services are provided free of charge in English and Spanish.

CAC is a fully accredited member of the National Children's Alliance, a Washington, D.C.- based organization that sets standards for child advocacy centers across the country. The Center is represented on the Cook County Child Advocacy Advisory Board, the group responsible for developing the Cook County Protocol for the Investigation of Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse.