




THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER MODEL

 Team member function

 Core CAC function

Law enforcement

Child Protective Services

The role of local law enforcement is grounded in public safety

The role of CPS is to ensure that a child's home is safe

If not criminal in nature, law enforcement may not take action

If the family/caretaker is not the alleged abuser, CPS may not take action

Immediate response

Priority assigned

cross-reporting

Child is brought to children's advocacy center

Joint investigation begins and includes:
Forensic interview | Witness interview | Evidence collection
Photos taken | Medical treatment and exam

CAC coordinates Case Review with all team members, including:
law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services, the forensic interviewer, a mental health provider, a medical professional, and a family advocate

Case presented to District Attorney, Suspect charged or case refused

Child and family receive mental health services, advocate works with family to assess resources and provide support as the case moves through justice system

Child Removed from Home, or case opened for services, or case closed