

Physical and sexual abuse of children is a problem that touches every community, urban or rural, rich or poor. Research indicates that at least one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. Only 10% will tell someone. Each year, hundreds of children are reported as abused in Niagara County. Reports of abuse typically reflect a small fraction of actual cases.

The Child Advocacy Center is a child-focused facility designed to coordinate services for children who report physical or sexual child abuse, witness domestic violence or survive child trafficking. The Center serves all of Niagara County.

You Can Help!

The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara depends on the generosity of individuals and organizations to serve children and families. Ways to help:

- A monetary gift or bequest
- Sponsorship of a fundraiser to benefit the CAC and the children and families we serve
- Donation of healthy non-perishable snacks and beverages
- Donation of new stuffed animals to provide comfort to children
- Donation of new toys, games, and crafts for children to use at the CAC

**Visit our website at
www.cacofniagara.org,
 call 716-285-0045 or email
cacofniagara@nfmcc.org**



Child Advocacy Center of Niagara Services

- A child friendly atmosphere for child abuse interviews and services
- Medical evaluations
- Coordination of investigative, legal, medical and mental health services
- Victim assistance and support
- Information and referral
- Professional training
- Community education and prevention
- Evidence-based trauma treatment
- Child Abuse Intervention Project
- Family Violence Intervention Project
- Child Fatality Review Team
- Safe Harbour (child trafficking) Project

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Child Advocacy Center of Niagara





What is the Child Advocacy Center?

The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara is a multidisciplinary program that responds to reports of physical and sexual abuse of children, as well as to child witnesses of domestic violence and child survivors of trafficking.

At the Child Advocacy Center, criminal justice, medical and mental health services are coordinated. Prosecutors, law enforcement officials, social service caseworkers, therapists, victim advocates, medical professionals and others work together to address allegations and to reduce the trauma for children reported as victims of abuse by:

- Providing a single point of coordination
- Providing a comfortable, child-friendly environment for forensic interviews and other services
- Providing medical, counseling, victim advocacy and support services
- Educating professionals and the community

For more information,
please contact us at (716) 285-0045
www.cacofniagara.org

Why is the Child Advocacy Center needed?

Discovering a child may be the victim of abuse, maltreatment or other trauma is a frightening, disturbing experience that affects the entire family. The investigation and response can be confusing and overwhelming, involving many different agencies and systems.

The Child Advocacy Center brings legal, social services, medical and mental health systems together in a place designed especially for children. As a result, cases are thoroughly investigated. Medical, counseling and victim advocacy services are provided and the trauma for the child and family is reduced.

Child Advocacy Center of Niagara Referral Policies

All child abuse interviews and evaluations conducted at the Child Advocacy Center are referred by the Niagara County Department of Social Services, law enforcement agencies or the Niagara County District Attorney's Office.

If you have any questions about referral policies or services, please contact the Child Advocacy Center at (716) 285-0045.

How to Report Child Abuse

If you suspect child abuse, call the New York State Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-342-3720 or contact your local law enforcement agency.

Other Services

The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara provides leadership and support for a comprehensive, coordinated response to reports of child abuse. To this end, the Center coordinates Niagara County's **Child Abuse Intervention Project (CAIP)**, a multidisciplinary team of law enforcement, social services, medical, mental health and victim assistance professionals who help support and protect children and families.

The Center provides a variety of other services designed to safeguard children and families.

CAC staff can provide **Victim Assistance** services to patients in Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center's emergency department and other Memorial programs.

The **Safe Harbour Project** addresses the commercial sexual exploitation of children and child trafficking, providing intensive case management services for child survivors and high-risk youth, public awareness and professional training.

The **Niagara County Child Fatality Review Team** promotes child safety through child death review, training and prevention activities to help avoid future tragedies.

The **Family Violence Intervention Project** is a coalition of agencies and organizations committed to addressing the related issues of interpersonal violence and child abuse through collaborative responses, community education and professional training.