

## What Is A Child Advocacy Center (CAC)?

Child Advocacy Centers were created to serve as a **single organization that brings together a multidisciplinary team** comprised of law enforcement, prosecution, social services, forensic interviewers, medical health professionals, and mental health professionals to serve children who have been physically or sexually abused.

- The idea behind CACs is that children only have to tell their story one time rather than being shuffled from agency to agency telling their story multiple times.
- CACs provide a safe, friendly, and child-centered environment for children and their nonoffending caregivers.

To learn more about why CACs were developed and how they provide a trauma-informed environment for children and their non-offending caregivers, please take a look at the following link: <https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/cac-model/>

## Other Resources to Enhance Knowledge About CACs



[www.d2l.org](http://www.d2l.org)



[www.nationalchildrensalliance.org](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org)



[www.mrcac.org](http://www.mrcac.org)



[www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)

## References

- Cyr, M., Frappier, J.-Y., Hebert, M., Tourigny, M., McDuff, P., & Turcotte, M.-E. (2016). Psychological and physical health of nonoffending parents after disclosure of sexual abuse of their child. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 25*(7), 757-776.
- Gonzalez, J.E., Wheeler, N.J., & Daire, A.P. (2017). Exploratory analyses of cognitive schemas for child and adolescent sexual abuse survivors: Implications for the research to practice gap. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling, 39*(1), 25-38.
- Jobe-Shields, L., Swiecicki, C.C., Fritz, D.R., Stinnette, J.S., & Hanson, R.F. (2016). Posttraumatic stress and depression in the nonoffending caregivers of sexually abused children: Associations with parenting practices. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 25*(1), 110-125.
- Wherry, J.N., Huey, C.C., & Medford, E.A. (2015). A national survey of child advocacy center directors regarding knowledge of assessment, treatment referral, and training needs in physical and sexual abuse. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 24*, 280-299.