

You Can Help!

The CAC is funded through state and local grants and community support. As the DeKalb County community grows, so does the need of the CAC.

If you are interested in helping the children of DeKalb County and the CAC, please complete the form below and return it to:

Family Service Agency's Children's Advocacy Center

14 Health Service Drive • DeKalb, IL 60115

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Big Brothers Big Sisters
Center For Counseling
Child Life & Family Education
Children's Advocacy Center
Senior Services Center

Family Service Agency
14 Health Services Drive
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
Ph: 815.758.8616
Fx: 815.758.7569
www.RealSolutionsToday.org
info@RealSolutionsToday.org



Family Service Agency is a United Way agency.

Children's Advocacy Center

Reducing trauma to children
who have been abused.



Background

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) was established in November of 2002 when its first multi-agency protocol was signed. In 2004, the CAC became a department of the Family Service Agency.

The mission of the CAC is to ensure and support a comprehensive, child appropriate and multidisciplinary response to reports of child sexual and severe physical abuse in DeKalb County.

The CAC uses a coordinated, multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach. The MDT consists of the DeKalb County State's Attorney, the DeKalb County Sheriff, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and medical and mental health professionals. The MDT approach helps the CAC meet its goal of reducing trauma to victims through coordination of services. Prior to the establishment of the CAC, children were required to describe the details of their abuse to many, many adults. Research suggests that it may have been necessary to describe the abuse up to 19 times. Through the CAC that number is reduced, minimizing the stress on the child and protecting the details about the abuse.

Services Offered

Forensic Interviews

A specially trained forensic interviewer conducts a victim sensitive interview with the child and others who may be at risk.

Referral Services

The CAC provides referrals for medical, financial, legal and other social service needs.

Assessment, Crisis Intervention & Counseling Services

The CAC partners with Family Service Agency's Center for Counseling to provide assessment, crisis intervention and counseling services to child victims and non-offending family members. Children and/or family members are offered at least six free counseling sessions.

Medical and Court Advocacy

The CAC works closely with medical professionals to ensure that children receive appropriate medical evaluation and treatment. In coordination with the DeKalb County State's Attorney's Victim Witness Assistant, the CAC maintains contact with the family to provide information regarding court activities and dates. The CAC is available to assist the State's Attorney in preparing children and family members for court testimony.

Case Coordination

The CAC assists child victims and non-offending family members in understanding the roles that each team member plays in responding to the case.

Community Education & Awareness

The CAC participates in many community education and awareness events each year. The CAC is also available to provide presentations regarding child abuse, including prevention.

Statistics about Sexual Abuse

- One in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before the age of 18.
- An estimated 39 million survivors of childhood sexual abuse live in the United States today.
- Males who have been sexually abused are more likely to violently victimize others.
- Children who have been victims of sexual abuse can have a difficult time in relationships, low self esteem, feelings of shame and guilt, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and become self-injurious.
- Most child victims know their abuser.
- Most child victims are between the ages of four and eleven.
- Typically, an abuser will have many victims before he or she is caught.
- DEKALB COUNTY STATISTICS ARE NO DIFFERENT!
- The CAC has provided coordination for more than 350 cases since 2002.
- More than 300 forensic interviews have been provided for DeKalb County children since 2002.

