

91. Ensuring that Children Disclosing Abuse are Protected by Intervention Systems

National Children's Alliance – United States

Responding to the potential re-victimization threat children face when assisted by various intervention systems, the primary goal of all Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC), run by the National Children's Alliance (NCA) is to end child abuse and neglect after disclosure.

Comprehensive victim response typically includes agency personnel from law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical assistance, victim advocacy, and mental health services. Each outfit has their own role to fulfill in the investigation and intervention procedures. As such, efforts are often duplicated, resulting in multiple interviews that may re-traumatize the child victim.

The NCA Children's Advocacy Centers were founded in an attempt to coordinate these processes so as to best protect the victim while still fulfilling all necessary legal and social service requirements. The system was refined from being disaggregated and repetitive to a more streamlined, coordinated process. This powerful concept of coordination between community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention system allows for better victim care.

At present, there are 750 Children's Advocacy Centers nationwide. Each center, while adhering to national standards and following a national framework, is distinctly designed to meet the needs and challenges of its community.

Source:

www.nationalchildrensalliance.org

100 Best Practices in Child Protection

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The Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University
Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies
and The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children