

Child Advocacy Center Interview

Location: Office Based

Client: Children

Duration: one or a series of developmentally appropriate, forensic interviews

Payer: DCS provides funding to the CAC, but CACs are not paid per interview like other contracted providers. CACs have an expense based contract.

Summary:

A Child Advocacy Center facilitates a multidisciplinary team approach to the investigations of allegations of child abuse and/or neglect. The team includes professionals such as law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical and mental health, victim assistance, and child advocacy. The purpose of the team is to avoid multiple interviews, reduce trauma of disclosure, and preserve statements for court purposes. Interviews are recorded in a safe, child-friendly environment.

Recorded interviews of child abuse victims in safe, child-friendly surroundings to avoid multiple interviews, reduce the trauma of disclosure, and preserve statements for court purposes. It consists of one or a series of developmentally appropriate, forensic interviews by a specially trained forensic interviewer who builds trust and rapport with the child while taking care not to suggest words or answers that are not the child's own. Other professionals may observe interviews and participate as appropriate by using a one-way glass window, bug-in-the-ear system or remote camera/television or some similar method of communication. Team discussion and information sharing regarding the investigation, case status and services needed by the child and family are to occur on a routine basis. The CAC must develop and implement a system for monitoring case progress and tracking case outcomes for team components. **Copies of interviews and reports will be given to local DCS offices. In the cases of prosecution, a report is required to be given to local DCS offices.**