HOW DOES THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER MODEL WORK?

Core Function of CAC

Function Provided by a Team Member

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The role of local law enforcement is grounded in public safety

If not criminal in nature, law enforcement may not take action

Immediate Response

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The role of CPS is to ensure that a child's home is safe

If the family/caretaker is not the alleged abuser, CPS may not take action

Priority Assigned
(24-72 hours)

Child is brought to children's advocacy center

Joint Investigation Begins
Forensic Interview
Evidence Collected
Photos Taken
Witness Interview
Medical Treatment and Exam

CAC coordinates Case Review with all team members, including law enforcement, prosecution, Child Protective Services, the forensic interviewer, a mental health provider, a medical professional, and a family advocate

Case presented to District Attorney

Suspect Charged or Case Refused

Child & family receive mental health services—Family advocate works with family to assess critical resources and provide support as the case moves through the justice system

Child Removed from Home, or Case Opened for Services, or Case Closed