

National Children's Alliance Standards for Accredited Child Advocacy Centers

Multidisciplinary Team

A multidisciplinary team for response to child abuse allegations includes representation from the following: law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical, mental health, victim advocacy and Children's Advocacy Center.

Cultural Competency and Diversity

Culturally competent services are routinely made available to all CAC clients and coordinated with the multidisciplinary team response.

Forensic Interviews

Forensic interviews are conducted in a manner that is legally sound, of a neutral, fact finding nature, and are coordinated to avoid duplicative interviewing.

Victim Support and Advocacy

Victim support and advocacy services are routinely made available to all CAC clients and their non-offending family members as part of the multidisciplinary team response.

Medical Evaluation

Specialized medical evaluation and treatment services are routinely made available to all CAC clients and coordinated with the multidisciplinary team response.

Mental Health

Specialized trauma-focused mental health services, designed to meet the unique needs of the child and non-offending family members, are routinely made available as part of the multidisciplinary team response.

Case Review

A formal process in which multidisciplinary discussion and information sharing regarding the investigation, case status and services needed by the child and family is to occur on a routine basis.

Case Tracking

Children's Advocacy Centers must develop and implement a system for monitoring case progress and tracking case outcomes for all MDT components.

Organizational Capacity

A designated legal entity responsible for program and fiscal operations has been established and implements basic sound administrative policies and procedures.

Child Focused Setting

The child-focused setting is comfortable, private, and both physically and psychologically safe for diverse populations of children and their non-offending family members.