

National Children's Alliance Accreditation
Standard #4

VICTIM SUPPORT and ADVOCACY

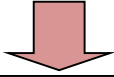
Victim support and advocacy services are routinely provided to all CAC clients and their caregivers as part of the multidisciplinary team response.

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS

- A. Comprehensive coordinated victim support and advocacy services are provided by designated individual(s) who have specialize training in Victim Advocacy. The CAC must demonstrate that all Victim Advocates providing services to CAC clients have successfully completed training that includes a minimum of 24 hours instruction.
- B. Individuals who provide victim advocacy services for children and families at the CAC must demonstrate participation in ongoing education in the field of victim advocacy and child maltreatment consisting of a minimum of eight contact hours every two years.
- C. Victim Advocates serving CAC clients must provide the following constellation of services: Crisis assessment and intervention, risk assessment and safety planning and support for children and family members at all stages of involvement with CAC. Assessment of individual needs, cultural considerations for child/family and ensure those needs are addressed. Presence at CAC during the forensic interview in order to participate in information sharing, inform and support family about the coordinated, multidisciplinary response, and assess needs of child and non-offending caregiver. Provision of education and access to victim's rights and crime victim's compensation. Assistance in procuring concrete services (housing, protective orders, domestic violence intervention, food, transportation, public assistance etc.). Provision of referrals for trauma focused, evidence -supported mental health and specialized medical treatment, if not provided at the CAC. Access to transportation to interviews, court, treatment and other case-related meetings. Engagement in the child's/family's response regarding participation in the investigation/prosecution. Participation in case review to: communicate and discuss the unique needs of the child and family and associated support services planning; ensure the seamless coordination of services; and, ensure the child and family's concerns are heard and addressed. Provision of updates to the family on case status, continuances, dispositions, sentencing, inmate status notification (including offender release from custody). Provision of court education & courthouse/courtroom tours, support, and court accompaniment. Coordinated case management meetings with any and all individuals providing victim advocacy services.
- D. Active outreach and follow-up support services for caregivers are consistently available.
- E. The CAC/MDT's written protocols/guidelines include availability of victim support and advocacy services for all CAC clients throughout the life of the case and participation of victim advocate(s) in MDT case review

Pre-Interview

- GREET CHILD AT THE DOOR – FIRST CONTACT
- BUILD RAPPORT WITH FAMILY
- ORIENT FAMILY TO THE CAC
- BRIEF EXPLANATION OF ROLE OF CAC AND MDT PROCESS
- COMPLETE INTAKE FORM(S)
- COMMUNICATE WITH FORENSIC INTERVIEWER ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION



Interview/Medical

- SIT WITH CAREGIVER DURING INTERVIEW/EXAM
- EDUCATE/INFORM PARENTS ABOUT NATURE OF INTERVIEW/MEDICAL EXAM
- CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR BOTH CHILD AND PARENT
- PROVIDE INFORMATION PACKET
- DEVELOP CASE PLAN AND MAKE REFERRALS AS NECESSARY
- PROVIDE SNACK TO CHILD FOLLOWING INTERVIEW
- PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CHILD IF NEEDED



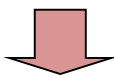
Follow Up

- MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH THE FAMILY ON SCHEDULE DEVELOPED WITH CAREGIVER
- MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH MDT TO SOLICIT SYSTEM INFORMATION TO PASS ALONG TO THE FAMILY
- SERVE AS A LIAISON BETWEEN INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES AND FAMILY
- MAKE REFERRALS TO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AS NEEDED
- MAKE REPORT TO CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES AS NECESSARY

MDT Case Review



- ATTEND CASE REVIEW
- REPORT TO MDT ABOUT FAMILY'S RESPONSE TO CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION
- MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THERAPISTS AND OTHER CAC STAFF ABOUT FAMILY NEEDS
- MEET WITH VICTIM SERVICE OFFICER IF NEEDED



Case Closed

- PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT AS NECESSARY THROUGH REFERRALS OR ON SITE AT THE CENTER



Court

- INSURE OR PROVIDE COURT PREPARATION FOR CHILD
- INSURE OR PROVIDE COURT ACCOMPANIMENT FOR CHILD AND CAREGIVER



Ongoing/Continuous Services

- CRISIS INTERVENTION
- DOCUMENTATION OF CONTACTS AND SERVICES
- PEER REVIEW

