

What is the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Putnam County?

The CAC is a child-friendly setting where a coordinated response to child abuse allegations may be pursued in ways that support and protect children and their families.

The overall goal is to reduce the trauma for a victim of child abuse by:

- Conducting interviews and medical examinations in a non-threatening child-friendly site.
- Coordinating a joint-interview response to avoid having the child interviewed multiple times.
- Providing a Victim Advocate to assist the family through the difficult process and make referrals to appropriate community resources.

How are referrals made to the CAC?

Children who are identified as potential victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or domestic violence are directed to the CAC by the investigating official. Access is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Using a Multidisciplinary approach, the CAC:

- Provides a safe, child-friendly setting for interviewing and performing medical examinations on children suspected of being abused.
- Improves the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.
- Enhances interagency communication and cooperation.
- Provides the families with services and assists them throughout the investigative and legal process.

Who are members of the Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Investigative Team?

Team members may consist of a:

- Child Protective Service Worker
- Prosecutor
- Law Enforcement Investigator
- Medical Provider
- Victim Advocate
- Mental Health Provider
- CAC Representative

Who are the CAC's partners?

The CAC of Putnam County works in collaboration with various agencies throughout Putnam County. All partner agencies work together through an interagency agreement.

Partner agencies include:

- Department of Social Services
- District Attorney's Office
- Sheriff's Office
- Probation Department
- Law Department
- Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center
- Carmel Police Department
- Kent Police Department
- New York State Police
- Brewster Police
- Putnam Family & Community Services
- Westchester Institute for Human Development

Other CAC Services and Activities:

Child Fatality Review Team:

- Studies the systemic problems related to child fatalities in order to identify preventable circumstances.

Safe Harbour Program:

- Identifies youth being trafficked or at risk of being trafficked.
- Provides services and referrals for these youth and their caregivers.
- Coordinates community outreach and education programs.

Public Awareness, Education, and Prevention Programs:

- Offers the New York State Mandated Reporter Training: Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Maltreatment/Neglect
- Coordinates the Children's Expo & Safety Fair.
- Provides Professional and Community Training Programs.

For additional information contact:

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