

Child GUIDANCE CENTER OF SOUTHERN CT

A program of Community Health Center, Inc.

Child Advocacy Center

Serving Stamford,
Greenwich & Darien



Helping Child
Abuse Victims
Grow and Heal
From Their Trauma



Backed by
National Children's Alliance®
Accredited Member

All CAC services are free of charge

What We Do

CGC's Child Advocacy Center (CAC) provides a child-friendly neutral environment where children who have experienced abuse, sexual abuse, been witness to violence and/or trafficking are interviewed for forensic purposes and connected with medical, mental health and advocacy services.

Offering:

Victim Advocacy: The CGC CAC Victim advocate will provide support throughout the process from disclosure, to investigation, connection to treatment and/or prosecution. The CGC CAC Victim Advocate is there to answer any questions and ensure that children and families have their voices heard and understand their rights.

Law Enforcement (LE): Law enforcement is notified after a disclosure of child abuse is made. They will participate in the forensic interview process and conduct their investigation to determine if a crime has been committed and if legal action is pursued.

Forensic Interviews: A trained forensic interviewer will talk with the child in the CGC CAC's child-friendly environment to gather information regarding the abuse. In order to reduce the number of people a child has to talk to after disclosing abuse, the interview will be observed by the CAC Program Director, Victim Advocate, DCF and LE. Referrals are made once the interview is complete for medical, mental health and other case management needs.

Prosecution: Prosecutors work collaboratively with law enforcement and other partners on the team to ensure cases are investigated to the fullest. They advise field investigators until the investigation is complete, and if an arrest is made, follow through disposition.

Medical Exam: A trained medical provider will follow up with caregivers after the forensic interview to offer consultation and an in-person physical exam.

Department of Children and Families (DCF): DCF is notified after a disclosure of abuse is made. They will participate in the forensic interview process and conduct their investigation to ensure the safety of children and to connect caregivers with community resources.

Mental Health Services: Specialized clinical services are offered to help minimize the impact of trauma associated with abuse. The CAC offers mental health services within CGC. CGC's trained clinicians assess the appropriate treatment and offer evidence-based treatment for trauma.