

The Children's Advocacy Center of Susquehanna and Wyoming counties is a private, non-profit, charitable organization overseen by Family Services Association of NEPA and a committee of community members dedicated to serving children and providing the best care possible.



What is a CAC?

The mission of a CAC is to provide a safe, comfortable environment for children and their families as they go through the interviewing and examination processes after disclosing some type of traumatic experience.

Family Service Association of NEPA, a not-for-profit, non-sectarian organization, provides diverse services to children, individuals, seniors, and families, empowering them to achieve their full potential and resulting in healthier relationships and stronger communities.

Established in 1895 by a group of involved and concerned members of the community, FSA NEPA has been built on the dynamic association of a volunteer governing board, a professional staff, and a consumer community.



“Stronger Communities Through Stronger Families”



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Children's Center



A Child Advocacy Center

What to Expect:

A Guide for Parents,
Guardians, and
Caregivers visiting a
CAC

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What is the investigative process?

A team of professionals dedicated to you and your child will work together gathering all the evidence and information needed to investigate the alleged crime. Each team member has a specific role to insure that every detail of your child's report is taken into consideration. The CAC coordinates the teams' efforts and provides you and your child ongoing reports and supports throughout the investigation process.



What should my child know about the interview?

It is important that you reassure your child to talk honestly and freely with the forensic interviewer. It is equally important that you not rehearse what your child should say with them. Remind them to use their own language to tell their story.



Can I be present with my child or the team during the interview?

It is understandable that during this scary and confusing time you would want to be with your child at all times. However, it might be difficult for them initially to talk about what happened in front of you and you may be upset by what they say. The team members must be focused on observing, assessing, and investigating the allegations. Therefore, you are not permitted to participate in or observe the interview process.

Will someone talk with me during the interview?

A family advocate will be available for support and to discuss follow up services. You are encouraged to bring a family member or friend to sit with you during your child's interview. The team members will talk with you after the interview and discuss what will happen next.

What should my child know about the medical exam?

Explain to your child that this medical exam is completed to make sure their bodies are healthy. The exam will not hurt and the medical examiner will tell your child everything that they are doing throughout the exam.

What happens next?

The family advocate will follow up with you to assess your needs and discuss available services. The CAC will have information available for counseling services in your area. They can make a referral at your request or give you the information you need.



What should I say to my child after the CAC?

Listen, Encourage, Understand

Listen if your child wants to talk but don't worry if they don't want to talk about the interview or exam. Encourage them to talk when they are ready and remind them that telling their story was brave. Understand if they aren't themselves for a few days after the interview but call the CAC or family advocate if you have further concerns.