



# ADVOCACY

Advocacy focuses on the needs of the children and caregivers. Advocates provide needed support, referrals and information along with a compassionate, listening ear. The goal of advocacy is to help the family navigate the system while supporting them through a difficult time. Advocacy services are available from the first contact and throughout the process.

## Where will advocacy occur?

Advocacy services may occur in multiple ways. It may occur at your local CAC, via telehealth, over the phone or by accompanying a family to court.



## How does advocacy happen?

An advocate at the CAC will visit with the caregiver to offer services, education, support and provide a listening ear. They will conduct screening for trauma and safety which will help determine appropriate services for the family. The CAC offers a variety of resources to support children and families in crisis.

## ..... MAKING A REFERRAL .....

Advocacy is available for any person who needs support and knowledge regarding abuse or trauma. Referrals for advocacy services can be made by any Multidisciplinary Team member, parent, or other agency concerned about the child's well-being by calling your local CAC to speak with an advocate. All clients coming to the CAC will be provided advocacy services during their visits and on-going as needed. Alleged offenders are not allowed at the CAC and cannot participate in advocacy.

# Advocacy may include but is not limited to:

Crisis intervention and safety planning

Assessment of individual and family needs and referral to appropriate resources

Follow-up and support the family regarding the coordinated, multidisciplinary response

Provide information for accessing victim's rights and crime victim's compensation

Coordination and referrals for specialized medical treatment

Screening for mental health services and when needed, referrals for trauma-focused, evidence-based mental health

When needed, assists in accessing transportation to interviews, court, treatment, and other case-related meetings

Provides case status updates to the family and team

Coordination of court education and support



*Children's Advocacy Centers in North Dakota are child-friendly settings that coordinate and provide services for children who may have been abused. The CACs help thousands of people each year using evidence-based practices.*



Bismarck • Dickinson • Jamestown  
Standing Rock • Watford City  
701.323.5626 | [dakotacac.org](http://dakotacac.org)



Minot • Williston • Bottineau  
701.852.0836 | [northernplainscac.org](http://northernplainscac.org)



Fargo • Grand Forks  
701.234.4580 | [rrcac.org](http://rrcac.org)