

The CAC Model

Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) were born from the belief that we could do more to help a child if everyone involved in child maltreatment investigations worked together.

Rather than a child and their family bouncing around a fragmented system, when Law Enforcement or Child Protective Services have concerns about child maltreatment, the CAC coordinates investigators to come together at the CAC to listen to the child. All the investigators hear the story at the same time while a trained interviewer, who specializes in talking to children about allegations of abuse, speaks with the child.

The CAC supports suspected child victims of sexual abuse under age 18, and is an option for adults with cognitive disabilities. We also handle cases with children involving severe physical abuse and witnesses to violence. We work with safe caregivers to support the family and child in their needs related to the investigation.



Contact Us

If you are looking to report suspected abuse or neglect, please call:
(855) 444-3911 (State Hotline)



Jackson Site

(517) 768-1907
3027 Wildwood Ave
Jackson, MI 49202

Lenawee Site

(517) 662-3442
122 S Broad St
Adrian, MI 49221

Hillsdale Site

(517) 740-0646
1711 S Hillsdale Rd
Hillsdale, MI 49242

 CACSCMI@CatholicCharitiesJLHC.org



**Working together to help transform
children's lives and futures**



Our Services

● *Forensic Interviewing*

Forensic interviewing is done at the CAC to aid in CPS and Law Enforcement Investigations. The forensic interviewer meets with the child and gives them the opportunity and space to share their experience.

● *Family Advocacy*

Family Advocacy is a service that provides support to and for the families that come to the CAC. The advocate finds resources for the families, refers them to services, and is another voice for them in the process.

● *Therapy (TF-CBT)*

The CAC provides therapy free of charge to children who have been referred for a forensic interview. Our therapists use a model called Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to help reduce the impact of trauma, the risk of future abuse, and other negative consequences. Therapy at the CAC is client-centered and allows children a safe space to heal.

Shayne is our Canine Advocate at CACSCMI. In some cases, Shayne will accompany children (ages 6+) during their forensic interview. He is known to bring comfort, peace, and many smiles to our clients!



The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

The Children's Advocacy Center works alongside local professionals to care for children and families who have been victimized by abuse. This group is called the **Multidisciplinary Team**. This team meets regularly to share information about and to work together on cases. This team includes:

- Law Enforcement Professionals
- Child Protective Services Professionals
- Medical Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals
- CAC Victim Advocates and Forensic Interviewers

Our Story

In 2011, community members in Jackson County came together to support children by founding a local CAC. The Jackson site opened its doors in 2012. In 2018, the Lenawee community made its own effort to bring these services to its children and opened its own CAC. The two CACs merged in 2022 to create a stronger program together. From this union, we were able to open the doors of a third CAC in Hillsdale in 2023. Today, we serve approximately 450 children and their families annually across all three counties.

The Children's Advocacy Center of South Central Michigan is a program of Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties. We are accredited through the National Children's Alliance.

