

# WEST VIRGINIA CHILD ADVOCACY NETWORK

## Legislative Guiding Principles

### SUPPORT HEALING & HOPE FOR CHILD SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

Our number one priority is to ensure child survivors of abuse have access to a Child Advocacy Center so they can find hope and healing. Our services include providing fact-finding, developmentally appropriate forensic interviews done in child-friendly environments, coordinating the multidisciplinary response, providing non-offending caregiver support, and mental health and medical services for lifelong healing.

### SUPPORTING MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

Child Advocacy Centers are only successful in helping child survivors of abuse heal when their multidisciplinary teams are strong. Team members include CAC staff, state and local law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, court-appointed special advocates, DHHR, mental health, medical providers, and more.

### HOLDING OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE

The safety of child survivors of abuse is a priority of Child Advocacy Centers. Our justice system plays a critical role in the prosecution of offenders, and our laws must reflect best practices that ensure children are safe at home and in their communities.

### SUPPORTING CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION EFFORTS

Through strategic partnerships and policymaking, WVCAN supports child abuse prevention efforts statewide. We support policies that increase adult responsibility and awareness, as well as child body safety education. We also stay apprised of emerging needs within our state to advocate for the welfare of all West Virginia children.



**wvcn**  
Empowering children. Restoring hope. Ending abuse.

400 Patterson Lane  
Charleston, WV 25311  
(304) 414-4455 | [wvcn.org](http://wvcn.org)