



wvcan

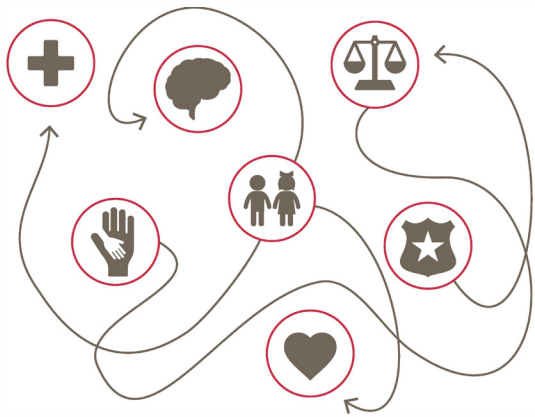
Empowering children.

Restoring hope. Ending abuse.

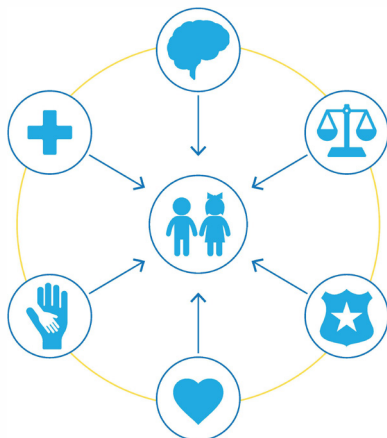
What is the West Virginia Children’s Advocacy Network?

The West Virginia Child Advocacy Network is the statewide leader in the fight against child abuse. We connect the community and professionals to the resources they need to ensure all children have access to safe, high-quality care through our 21-member CACs – child advocacy centers.

WITHOUT CACs



WITH CACs



When police or child protective services believe a child is being abused, the child is brought to the CAC – a safe, child-focused environment – by a caregiver or other “safe” adult. At the CAC, the child tells their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask. Then, based on the interview, a team that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, mental health providers, prosecution, child protective services, victim advocates, and other professionals make decisions together about how to help the child. CACs then offer a wide range of services like therapy, medical exams, courtroom preparation, victim advocacy, case management, and more.

What are CACs and how do they help kids?

CACs are how communities mount a coordinated response to allegations of child abuse. To understand what a child advocacy center is, you must understand what children face without one. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again – to doctors, police, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others. They may not get the help they need to heal once the investigation is over, either.

CACs provide healing, justice, and trust for child victims of abuse.

Last year, CACs statewide demonstrated that our model works through hundreds of surveys from caregivers and team members. Here are some highlights from West Virginia that show our families and partners believe in the healing, justice, and trust we provide.

- **Healing:** 96% of caregivers agree that CACs provide them with resources to support their children.
- **Justice:** 96% of team members believe clients benefit from the collaborative approach of the team.
- **Trust:** If caregivers knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like the one their family faced, 99% would tell that person about the center.

