

# WHO WE SERVE

We serve children up through the age of seventeen with reported cases of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse. Families and caretakers are also served through the investigation and treatment process.

# OUR SERVICES

- A safe, child-friendly atmosphere for interviews and medical exams for sexually-abused children
- Coordinated services provided by a multidisciplinary team comprised of law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, and medical and human service professionals
- Child-sensitive forensic interviews
- On-site medical examinations
- Trauma-informed counseling and referrals for victims and families
- Court preparation and support for victims and families during court proceedings
- Community awareness and advocacy to address the issue of child sexual abuse

Families are referred to the WCAC by law enforcement agencies and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

If you think a child has been sexually abused, contact your local law enforcement agency or MDHHS at **855.444.3911** immediately.



## Our Vision

is to help people live safe, meaningful, and independent lives, in a more just community.

## We Change

lives by stepping up every day and responding to the very real needs in our communities.

## Through Service

CSSW actively

addresses the causes and consequences of poverty, family chaos, and violence. We tackle problems brought on by age, mental illness, substance abuse, disability, and stress through a wide spectrum of services designed to help people at all stages of life.

# Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center

**Support • Protect • Advocate**

A program of Catholic Social Services  
of Washtenaw County



Visit us at:  
[www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac](http://www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac)



**Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center**  
555 Towner Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48198

734.544.2925 | [wcac@washtenaw.org](mailto:wcac@washtenaw.org)  
[www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac](http://www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac)

*We Seek Justice, and Change Lives*

# WHO WE ARE

The Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center (WCAC) is a collaboration involving all eleven Washtenaw County law enforcement jurisdictions, the Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney's office, Michigan Medicine/Child Protection Team, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), St. Joseph Mercy Hospital SANE program, and Washtenaw Community Mental Health.

The WCAC provides a coordinated, comprehensive response for children and teens referred for suspected child sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse. Services include forensic interviews, trauma-informed short and long-term counseling, medical exams, court support and advocacy, and referrals to community resources. Services are also provided to non-offending family members. All services are provided at no cost.



Our program is based on a national model for child advocacy centers. The WCAC is fully accredited by the National Children's Alliance and the Council on Accreditation.

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10%

of all children are sexually abused before the age of eighteen

30%

of sexually-abused children are abused by family members

35%

of child victims of sexual abuse are under the age of twelve

Nearly  
40%

of sexually-abused children are abused by older and/or larger children

Over  
90%

of sexual-abuse cases involve children and families who know and trust the abuser

100% of  
Children

regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, age, income, or family structure are at risk for sexual abuse

## WCAC PROVIDES:

Multidisciplinary  
Team Approach

Trauma-Informed  
Counseling

Forensic  
Interviews

Court Support  
and Advocacy

# WHAT TO DO

When children disclose sexual abuse, they may be worried they won't be believed or frightened they will be punished. False reportings of child sexual abuse are rare. To reassure the child, follow these tips:

- Stay calm and find a private place to talk
- Don't react with anger or disbelief
- Listen to what the child says and praise him/her for being so brave
- Refrain from questioning the child about details or pressuring them to tell more
- Allow the child to use his/her own words—don't guide them in what to say
- Reassure the child that telling you was the right thing to do
- Explain that now you will tell others about the abuse to make sure he/she stays safe
- Assure the child that the abuse was not his/her fault, and he/she is not going to be punished
- Remind the child that he/she can always come to you for help
- Report all suspected cases of abuse



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