



### Why a Child Advocacy Center?

Tragically once abuse occurs, children can face a frightening and confusing process. Without a Child Advocacy Center (CAC), the child may end up having to tell about the worst experience of their life many times over to investigators, doctors, lawyers, therapists, law enforcement and others.

Without a CAC a child may have to talk to **15+** individuals.

Child-focused services through our CAC SLO County include a child abuse pediatrician, safe parent or caregiver and Family Advocate working together to address the abuse and assist the treatment and healing process. The child victim shares their experience once with a trained forensic interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that is not re-traumatizing. Counseling and community resources are available to support child and family well-being.

With a CAC a child only talks to **4** trained professionals.



## CAC SLO County Team

In San Luis Obispo County our CAC Multi-Disciplinary Team works together to respond to child abuse allegations. The CAC team includes representation from public health, the District Attorney, law enforcement, education, mental health and community-based organizations.



### Courthouse Facility Dog Support

The SLO County District Attorney's Office can provide an expertly trained Courthouse Facility Dog to help children make it through this difficult process by being present and providing comfort and support.



### CAC SLO County Services Include:

A **Forensic Interview** provides a safe place for the child to share their experience with trained professionals who will listen to them, protect them and help them heal.

Our child abuse pediatrician conducts a **Medical Examination** to evaluate and treat physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and other instances of trauma.

**Family Advocacy Services** provide a bridge between the child victim, safe family members, and the team of professionals guiding the process.

Expert **Mental Health Services** are a crucial component in addressing the immediate and long-term effects of child abuse-related trauma for both the victim and safe family members.

To learn more, please contact **CAC Family Advocate Services Coordinator** at **(805) 788-8242** or visit **[cfslo.org](http://cfslo.org)**



The CAC SLO County is a healing and treatment program administered by:

