

About the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)

- A program of the CAN Council Saginaw County.
- Accredited by the National Children's Alliance by adhering to nationally established standards.
- Provides services to an average of 400 children a year.
- Member of the Michigan Chapter of the National Children's Alliance, a statewide coalition of CACs.



CAN Council Saginaw County Programs

- Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Child Abuse Prevention Education (CAPE)

CAN
COUNCIL
SAGINAW COUNTY

Together we **CAN** stop child abuse and neglect.

The CAN Council is a non-profit organization that depends on the financial gifts of caring people in our community. Your tax-deductible gift will let us provide a safe, caring place for children to be expertly interviewed and examined, lessening the trauma and providing the best opportunity for their safety in the future. Some services at the Children's Advocacy Center and the production of this brochure are provided through a grant from the Michigan Crime Victims Services Commission (VOCA).

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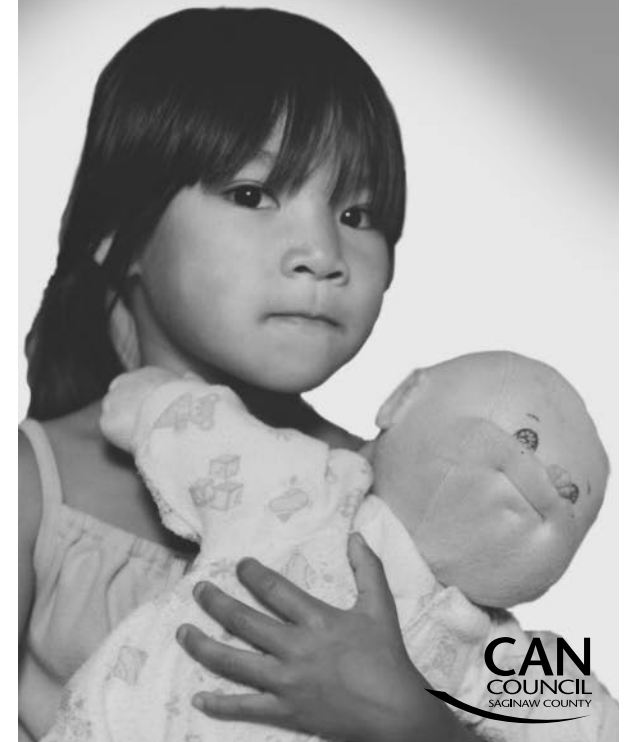
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A BETTER WAY IN SAGINAW

Children's Advocacy Center

Using teamwork to make a difference in the lives of abused children



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The Facts

- As many as one in every four children will be sexually abused before the age of 18.
- Children are most often abused by people they know.
- Children rarely tell anyone about the abuse right away.
- The investigation involves several different disciplines and agencies.

The Way It Used to Be

- Medical exams and child interviews happened in threatening and scary settings, e.g., police stations, cars, and hospitals.
- The child was asked to tell what happened over and over again. As many as five agencies became part of the investigation and information was not shared.
- Sadly, the child's needs became lost in the investigation.

A Better Way in Saginaw

The Children's Advocacy Center Services

- Children are provided with a safe and supportive environment to tell what happened.
- Child-sensitive interviews and expert non-invasive medical evaluations are conducted.
- Child abuse professionals are brought together as a team to reduce the number of interviews, to share the information and to provide a coordinated response that best meets the needs of the child and the family.
- Team members could include law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, and mental health professionals.
- Children are referred for counseling and other follow-up services.

Our Goal

The Children's Advocacy Center of Saginaw County believes that the investigative process should not add to the pain a child has already suffered through the abuse itself. The Center is an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance. It exists to ease the hurt experienced by children and their families during an investigation. The Children's Advocacy Center gives children a safe and caring place for specialized interviews and medical evaluations. Our team works together to make a plan that best meets the needs of the child and the family.

