



New Hampshire Child Advocacy Center Locations:

The Hillsborough County Child Advocacy Center-North
Manchester, New Hampshire • 603-623-2300

The Hillsborough County Child Advocacy Center-South
Nashua, New Hampshire • 603-889-0321

The Greater Lakes Child Advocacy Center
Laconia, New Hampshire • 603-524-5497

The Monadnock Region Child Advocacy Center
Keene, New Hampshire • 603-352-0413

The Child Advocacy Center of Carroll County
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire • 603-569-9840

The Child Advocacy Center of Coos County
Lancaster, New Hampshire • 603-788-8201

The Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County
Portsmouth, New Hampshire • 603-422-8240

The Merrimack County Advocacy Center
Concord, New Hampshire • 603-219-0627

The Child Advocacy Center of Grafton and Sullivan Counties at DHMC
Lebanon, New Hampshire • 603-653-9012

Strafford County Child Advocacy Center
Dover, New Hampshire • 603-516-8100



72 South River Road, Suite 202
Bedford, New Hampshire 03110

For more resources please go to: www.cac-nh.org



Navigating the Forensic Interview Process



Going to the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) for a Forensic Interview — What Does That Mean?

Caregivers are asked to bring a child to a CAC for a forensic interview for several reasons which include concerns of possible abuse, concerns of possible neglect, or exposure to violence or other criminal events. Alleged perpetrators or suspects are not allowed at the CAC regardless of their relationship to the child. The CAC sees all different types of people for all different types of reasons.

The goal of the CAC is to:

- » provide a neutral child- and adolescent-friendly environment where community partners work together to find out what may have happened.
- » promote healing through consistent, internal providers and high-quality partnerships with community service providers.
- » help every child move beyond their trauma to heal, survive, and thrive.

What is a Forensic Interview?

- » A forensic interview is a structured conversation where questions are asked in a manner that is not threatening, unbiased and non-suggestive.
- » The interview is video recorded to prevent repeated questioning.

- » The forensic interviewer must talk with the child alone. It is difficult for a child to talk about abuse they may have experienced. Having a caregiver in the room may distract or inhibit children during an interview. Children may also want the caregiver to answer questions for them. It is best if the child can provide information independently.
- » Caregivers will have an opportunity to speak with other multidisciplinary team members about helpful services after the interview.

Who will be working together at the CAC?

Although not all CACs have the same staff, staff at the CAC can include the forensic interviewer, family support specialist, intake coordinator and CAC behavioral health clinician. Professionals from other agencies present at the CAC are a part of the multi-disciplinary team that assembles for forensic interviews. The team of community professionals present for your interview may include:

- Forensic Interviewer
- Police Detective
- DCYF Worker
- Prosecutor
- Victim/Witness Advocate
- Family Support Specialist
- Crisis Center Advocate
- CAC Behavioral Health Clinician



How a caregiver can help prepare a child for their visit

- » Children are most comfortable when they know what to expect. Explain to the child that he/she will be meeting with a person whose job it is to talk with children.
- » Reassure the child that he/she is not in trouble and that it is okay to talk to the forensic interviewer about anything that is bothering them.
- » Tell the child that you do not know exactly what they will be asked, but that you believe them and are here to support them.
- » Do not question the child about any concerns of abuse, as this can unintentionally influence a child's disclosure. Also, DO NOT tell the child what to say.
- » Be mindful of conversations you have with others around the child as it could also influence the information they share during the forensic interview.

Who can answer questions about the CAC process?

CAC staff will be able to answer general questions about the CAC process and help with directions and other logistics around a pending visit. Virtual tours of each CAC in NH — which include a child friendly explanation of the process — can be found on this website as well.

Visit cac-nh.org to find your local CAC