

What is a Child Advocacy Center?

A Safe Haven

- ❑ **A child focused and non-threatening environment where the investigation, intervention and treatment of child abuse takes place.**
- ❑ **A neutral and child-focused place where all disciplines involved in child protection work as a team to coordinate and improve services – members of the multidisciplinary team include Department of Children’s Services, law enforcement, prosecution, medical and mental health representatives.**

Why is it needed?

- ❑ **There were close to 1200 reported cases of abuse in the 9th Judicial District in the year 2000 – many more are not reported.**
- ❑ **One in four children will be sexually abused before age 18.**
- ❑ **The majority of perpetrators of physical and sexual abuse are not strangers to the child.**
- ❑ **The effects of child abuse are damaging to the child, the family, and the community.**

How will the Child Advocacy Center help?

- ❑ **Reduces trauma and facilitates the healing process for the child and family.**
- ❑ **Improves the quality of evidence collection and coordination of investigation efforts, leading to an increase in successful prosecution.**
- ❑ **Increases community awareness of abuse, which results in more effective prevention and early intervention in child abuse cases.**