

Child Abuse Intervention Center

The Child Abuse Intervention Center (CAIC) is a joint venture between Clark County and the city of Vancouver. It brings a coordinated and multi-disciplinary approach to the investigation and prosecution of felony child abuse cases. The CAIC investigates and prosecutes all felony child abuse cases involving children younger than 16 within the city of Vancouver and unincorporated Clark County.

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Investigation

The investigation unit is responsible for providing a comprehensive investigation of the allegations of child abuse to determine whether there is enough information, facts and evidence to conclude that the allegations could be true. The information, facts and evidence are obtained through interviews, interrogations and other investigative techniques. If enough information is obtained to conclude that the allegation is true or could be true, the case is then forwarded to the prosecution unit.

Prosecution

The prosecution unit is responsible for reviewing the cases forwarded by the investigation unit in an effort to determine whether charges will be filed against the named suspect. If charges are filed the case is assigned to an individual prosecutor who will begin to prepare the case for prosecution. Case preparation techniques include interviews and a review of any physical evidence as well as any additional follow-up information that may be needed.

Social Services

The social services unit is responsible for coordinating any and all social service follow-up activities that may be necessary for each case. The services may include coordination of counseling services as well as providing assistance for filing state Victim Compensation Forms.

The social services unit arranges for the use of YWCA Sexual Assault Program Volunteer Advocates. These advocates are assigned to individual cases to assist the family in many ways, not the least of which includes assistance in transportation, providing support during interviews and during court appearances. Additionally, the advocate will assist the victim and family in understanding the criminal justice process.

The social services unit is also responsible for providing training and/or information to all elements of the community, including medical practitioners, churches, civic organizations, neighborhood groups, schools and other governmental agencies.

Publications

Call (360) 397-6002 for numerous pamphlets, handouts and brochures with information about child abuse.

An informational brochure, entitled "What's Next?", that outlines what the victim and families can expect relative to the steps along the way involved in investigation and the prosecution of their case.

The "Annual Report", includes activities, statistical data and other information relevant to the operation of CAIC.

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