Your Guide to

Montana's Children's Advocacy Centers

One Voice, One Child, One Big Difference

Table of Contents

Introduction **3**
- What is a children's advocacy center? 3
- What is a multidisciplinary team? 3

Children's Advocacy Center Services **5**
- Forensic Interviews 5
- Child Protection Specialists 5
- Law Enforcement and Prosecution 6
- Victim Advocates 7
- Medical Examinations 7
- Mental Health Support 8
- Public and Professional Education 8

Organizations that Unite Child Advocacy Centers **9**
- Children's Alliance of Montana 9
- Montana Child Sexual Abuse Response Team 9

Frequently Asked Questions **10-19**
- What is child abuse? 10
- Can child sexual abuse involve more than touching? 10
- What is human sex trafficking? 10
- Does a child ever have some responsibility for the abusive behavior? 10
- Can a child consent to having sex with an adult or another child? 10
- How do children tell someone about sexual abuse? 11
- I told my child to tell if they were ever sexually abused, why didn't they listen? 11
- Why do children "recant" or take back an earlier report of sexual abuse? 12
- Wouldn't a child who has been abused be fearful of the offender? 12
- Why do some adults not believe children when they report abuse? 12
- Isn't it better for the child not to talk about the abuse so he/she can forget what happened? 13
- Will my child need counseling? 13
- How do I choose a therapist? 14
- What if my child must go to court? 15
- How can I find out about sex offenders in my area? 15
- As the protective caregiver—what if I am having trouble processing my feelings? 16
- How do I report suspected child abuse? 17
- What is normal sexual behavior in children? 18-19

Victim's Rights **20**

Crime Victim Services **20**
- Crime Victims Compensation 24
- VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday) 24
- Department of Justice Victim Notification 24
- Outcome Measurement System (OMS) 25
- Referrals to Services 25

Map of Montana CACs **26-27**

Introduction

Every child should be given the opportunity to grow into a healthy, successful adult. A child who has been abused needs special assistance navigating the aftermath of their trauma. No single individual or agency has the necessary knowledge, skills, or resources to serve the needs of all children and their families. Proper response to child abuse requires a multifaceted community approach. This brochure will introduce you to the team of professionals in Montana that respond to reports of child abuse. They work together so each child is given the best opportunity to move from surviving abuse to thriving. This collaborative approach is accomplished through multidisciplinary teams assembled at children's advocacy centers.

What is a children's advocacy center?

Children's advocacy centers (CAC) are safe, confidential, child-centered environments where families have the benefits of comprehensive services including forensic interviews, medical care, counseling, case management, and advocacy. **At a CAC, a child can tell a trained interviewer who knows the right neutral questions to ask what—if anything—happened.** CACs are the place where multidisciplinary teams gather.

What is a multidisciplinary team?

A multidisciplinary team includes prosecutors, law enforcement, child protection specialists, forensic interviewers, mental health providers, medical professionals, and victim advocates. Team members meet regularly to collaborate on child abuse cases in their geographic area. Meetings are designed to ensure victims of child abuse receive comprehensive services and appropriate referrals, as well as to track the progress of cases through the criminal and child protection systems.

Multidisciplinary teams assist with securing the immediate and future safety of the child victim, minimize further trauma or revictimization, assist in the child's healing, increase the quality of child abuse investigations, and facilitate efficient and appropriate disposition of cases through the criminal justice system.

Help Prevent Child Abuse

1. *Become comfortable talking to your children about sexuality, including how all parts of their bodies work and their proper names.*
2. *Set limits with media. Know what your children are watching on tv and online. Limit social media sites and apps. Insist on passwords.*
3. *Discuss the difference between privacy and secrecy. Remind kids that temporary secrets—like a surprise party or a present—may be okay, but permanent secrets are not okay.*
4. *Know the people your children are socializing with inlcuding your children's friends, their parents, and any other adults your children spend time with.*
5. *Minimize opportunity. Reduce or eliminate one-on-one time between a child and an adult or teenager.*
6. *Educate children about abuse and inappropriate touching. Reassure children that it is okay to tell you if something happens and they will not be in trouble—no matter what.*
7. *Don't expect obvious signs of child abuse. But if you see something concerning, report it! It is everyone's responsibility to report child abuse.*

Please contact your local Children's Advocacy Center to learn more about prevention programs in your area.

Resources: Darkness to Light, National Child Traumatic Stress Network

Children's Advocacy Center Services

CACs vary in size throughout Montana, with some offering nearly every service onsite, to those housing two or three services. Regardless of size, every CAC utilizes a multidisciplinary team (MDT) to ensure each child has access to every service necessary to obtain safety, healing, and justice. This section details the vital services offered in CACs and describes the work of the members of the MDT.

Forensic Interviews

Forensic interviews are neutral, developmentally appropriate conversations with children conducted by trained professionals when there has been a concern of child abuse. Forensic interviews are coordinated with the MDT to avoid the child having to talk with multiple people about what, if anything, happened. CACs provide a safe, comfortable, child-friendly setting for children. The interview room is equipped with technology to audio and video record, which enables the investigative team to participate in the interview through closed circuit television.

Forensic interviewers may work at the CAC or be from an MDT member agency, such as law enforcement or the Department of Health and Human Services. Forensic interviewers are specially trained to talk and interact with children without added trauma to the child.

Interviews are conducted in a matter that is legally sound and of a neutral, fact finding nature. Information gathered during the forensic interview may assist with criminal and child welfare investigations.

According to national standards, caregivers are not allowed to accompany the child during the interview. The child meets with the interviewer by themselves.

Child Protection Specialists

Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Child and Family Services Division Child Protection Specialists have the primary responsibility for receiving and investigating reports of child abuse and neglect and for providing services to children and their families where abuse and/or neglect are found.

Child protection specialists investigate when the alleged perpetrator of abuse or neglect is the parent or guardian or has some type of supervisory responsibility for the child. Child protection specialists may be present at forensic interviews to aid in the investigation and support for families.

Law Enforcement and Prosecution

Law enforcement agencies have primary responsibility for investigating crimes. The law enforcement officer observes the forensic interview at the CAC, investigates criminal activity, collaborates with the MDT, and presents the case to a prosecutor to file criminal charges when appropriate.

Law enforcement personnel may not be able to answer every question related to an investigation, due to its confidential nature. However, they will discuss things connected to victim and caregiver safety and will share information that victims have a right to know.

In Montana, county attorneys prosecute violations of criminal laws in the county where they occur. These cases include felonies, misdemeanors, crimes committed by juveniles, and dependency, neglect, and abuse cases. County attorneys evaluate allegations of abuse and decide whether a case will be prosecuted.

Children's Advocacy Center Services

Victim Advocates

When concerns of child abused arise, families and children are thrown into a stressful and often unfamiliar situation. At these tense times, children and caregivers must have access to an advocate who can guide them through the aftermath of child abuse. Advocates provide support, referral to services, information, education, crisis counseling, and assistance with completing Crime Victim Compensation Fund applications.

Victim advocates explain what to expect. They provide ongoing support to victims and families in all stages of the process, from the forensic interview, through the investigation and court proceedings, and even through the probation/parole process. Victim advocates inform victims and their families about their rights, empowering them to advocate for themselves.

Advocates may be employed at CACs, county attorney offices, law enforcement agencies or other community advocacy organizations. Regardless of where the advocate is located, each works to ensure the needs of child victims and families are considered.

Medical Examinations

When recommended by and coordinated with the investigating agencies, medical examinations are conducted for children who have made allegations of sexual abuse.

The medical exam is important to ensure the child is healthy and without injury. The information gathered in the exam process may assist with criminal and child welfare investigations.

All children who are suspected victims of child sexual abuse are entitled to a medical evaluation by a licensed provider with specialized training. Physicians and nurses receive advanced training in the use of noninvasive methods when conducting these medical evaluations. Some CACs have a medical team on site to conduct medical examinations, and others refer to local medical providers.

Children's Advocacy Center Services

Mental Health Support

Professional counseling may be necessary to the child's recovery process. Often CACs can recommend a counselor, who is specially trained and has experience in child abuse treatment. CACs may have a trained therapist on-site or may refer to mental health providers in the community, to ensure children and families receive services at the earliest opportunity.

Mental health professionals provide support by assisting in crisis intervention, and providing evidence-based therapy to victims and families. They may also consult and serve as an educational resource for the MDT on subjects of mental health. The mental health professional may also facilitate and refer to treatment, provide expert testimony in court, and assist in the creation of Victim Impact Statements.

Mental health providers serving children referred from the CAC have training in evidence-based practice modalities, such as:

TF-CBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy)
PCIT (Parent Child Interaction Therapy)
CFTSI (Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention)
AF-CBT (Alternatives for Families-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing)
CPP (Child-Parent Psychotherapy)

Public and Professional Education

Education is critical to reduce the incidence and impact of child abuse in every community. CACs provide that necessary support to meet the training needs of MDT members, relevant professionals, and the general public on topics related to child abuse. For example, CACs provide training on the impacts of child abuse, child abuse prevention, and mandatory reporting. Each CAC varies in the training services and resources offered, but **every CAC shares the common goal of educating the community to help prevent the occurrence of and reduce the trauma inflicted by child abuse.**

Organizations that Unite Child Advocacy Centers

Children's Alliance of Montana

CAM is a network of Child Advocacy Centers and multidisciplinary teams throughout Montana.

The Children's Alliance of Montana (CAM) is a network of service providers who share expertise, resources and support to Montana CACs and MDTs. The mission of CAM is to ensure every child in Montana has access to a CAC and the expertise of professionals working on an MDT. CAM accomplishes its mission by providing support, training, and technical assistance to professionals working on MDTs and in CACs.

CAM works with state and tribal communities to develop and sustain CACs and ensure they meet the accreditation standards of the National Children's Alliance (NCA). The Children's Alliance of Montana is an Accredited Chapter of the NCA. Please refer to the map at the end of this brochure for a list of Montana CACs.

Montana Child Sexual Abuse Response Team

MCSART is a program of the Special Services Bureau of the Montana Department of Justice (DOJ) that supports Child Advocacy Centers and multidisciplinary teams.

Montana Child Sexual Abuse Response Team (MCSART) provides training, equipment, and technical support to professionals who respond to child victims of serious crime and abuse. MCSART provides training in the areas of child forensic interviewing, medical, victim advocacy and mental health. MCSART works with county attorneys to improve successful prosecutions of perpetrators.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is generally recognized as the risk of or actual infliction of physical or psychological harm to a child. Child abuse can occur in many ways, including physical and sexual violence, neglect, abandonment, and emotional and psychological abuse.

Can child sexual abuse involve more than touching?

Yes. Child sexual abuse can include both touching and non-touching behaviors. It can take on many forms such as fondling, penetration, exposure or viewing of private parts, viewing pornography, and communicating with a child in a sexualized manner. All forms of abuse are serious and must be addressed by law enforcement, child protective services, and often mental health and medical professionals.

What is human sex trafficking?

This occurs when anything of value—for example food, clothing, shelter, or games—is given to or received by a person in exchange for a sex act. Children are trafficked every day, and human trafficking is a form of child abuse.

Does a child ever have some responsibility for the abusive behavior?

ABSOLUTELY NOT. Children are never responsible for abuse—no matter what. Child abuse is a crime the abuser chooses to commit.

Can a child consent to having sex with an adult or another child?

No. Children do not have the ability to consent to a sexual act with an adult or another child. Under Montana law, the age at which a child can consent to sexual intercourse is 16.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do children tell someone about sexual abuse?

Children disclose sexual abuse in different ways, depending on their age, developmental capacity, and many other factors. Young children may not realize that what they are experiencing is abuse or may lack the words to describe it. Therefore, a child may disclose accidentally, through their behaviors or in conversation. As children grow older, their desire for the abuse to end may lead them to tell a person outside of the family, such as a best friend, teacher, or coach.

I told my child to tell someone if they were ever sexually abused. Why didn't they listen?

Most children who are sexually abused do not disclose their abuse immediately. It is very common for children not to disclose abuse for days, months, or even years. Abusers often use threats and manipulation to keep their victims silent about abuse. Children may fear their families will be torn apart, that there may be negative consequences for the abuser, or that he/she was at fault and will be in trouble for the abuse. Very young children may not understand that they are experiencing abuse. Older children are often given privileges, attention, or gifts by the abuser and may not want to lose them. The child may love the abuser, even if they do not like the abuse. There are many other reasons a child may not disclose abuse, but that does not mean the disclosure is not truthful when the child does tell.

Why do children “recant” or take back an earlier report of sexual abuse?

Recanting does not mean the disclosure was false or the child was lying. Disclosures of sexual abuse often plunge a family into chaos and turmoil. The child may believe the disclosure, not the abuse, caused the turmoil. The child may feel their family does not believe them or they may feel pressure from those around them to “get back to normal.” Feelings of shame, embarrassment, and guilt often accompany sexual abuse and the child may believe, by taking back the disclosure, that these feelings will be lessened.

Wouldn’t a child who has been abused be fearful of the offender?

Sexual abusers often “groom” their victims by giving gifts, attention and/or special privileges. This grooming process ensures continued access to and secrecy with the victim. The abuser may also be a close friend, family member, or someone else the victim respects or loves.

Why do some adults not believe children when they report abuse?

There are many factors that cause adults not to believe children’s disclosures of abuse. Some adults simply do not want to believe abuse occurs. Others may depend on the abuser economically, emotionally, or physically and would suffer if that individual were incarcerated. When the abuser is a family member or friend, the non-abusing adult may risk losing support systems such as other friends, family, or religious groups. The non-abusing adult may also fear that if action is taken on behalf of the child, the abuser may physically harm the victim and/or the non-abuser.

Frequently Asked Questions

Isn’t it better for the child not to talk about the abuse so he/she can forget what happened?

Although many adults would be more comfortable not talking about abuse with the children in their lives, it is essential that they do. By not talking, the adult sends a message that the abuse should be kept secret, and the emotions surrounding it should be kept inside. By talking about the abuse calmly and openly, the adult can let the child know he/she is not alone, and the abuse was not the child’s fault.

Will my child need counseling?

Each child will react to abuse in a different way. A child’s development, relationship to the offender, nature and duration of the abuse, level of support felt, and level of responsibility the child feels for the abuse are all factors that affect how the child will process the abuse and the events after disclosure. Because there are so many contributing factors, each victim should be assessed by a professional who will consider the child’s needs carefully and develop a specialized treatment plan.

How do I choose a therapist?

Child protective services or your local CAC will often be able to recommend a counselor best suited for your child's needs. The recommended treatment for a child who has experienced abuse, neglect, traumatic loss, domestic violence or other traumatic events is Evidenced Based Trauma Focused Mental Health Treatment, often called Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT). Evidence based treatment means research shows this model of treatment is effective when working with children who are victims of trauma. Caregivers should ask their child's counselor important questions to ensure quality care for the child. Some of these questions could be:

- Does the counselor have training in an evidence-based, trauma-focused therapy treatment model (like TFCBT)?
- Does the counselor have experience treating sexually abused children?
- How long has this counselor specialized in trauma focused treatment?
- Does the counselor have access to supervision and/or consultation regarding their clients?
- Is there a plan for the counselor to update caregivers on progress without telling them what the child is saying in counseling?
- Where does the counselor place the blame for the abuse—on your child? On the caregiver? Or on the offender?

Finding the right counselor for the victim is very important. Do not be afraid to ask questions. A qualified counselor will be happy and able to address your concerns. If the child does not connect with the counselor after numerous sessions, it is okay to find another trauma informed counselor with whom your child may be more comfortable.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if my child must go to court?

The legal process is complex and can be confusing at times. To help guide you through it, advocates are available through the prosecutor's office, CACs, rape crisis centers, and some law enforcement agencies, depending on individual community resources. These advocates help victims and caregivers prepare to testify, meet with the prosecutor, and become more comfortable with the entire legal process. Advocates can arrange appointments to see the courtroom before the child testifies.

Preparing the child for court and establishing a relationship with the child is important. If the family of the child is not allowed in the courtroom while the child testifies, the advocate can be a friendly, supportive face in the courtroom for the child. Regardless of the outcome of the court case, it is important that the child can celebrate his or her success in telling the truth.

How can I find out about sex offenders in my area?

Convicted sex offenders are required to register with law enforcement when they move or after their release from prison/jail. A list of sex offenders registered in Montana can be accessed via these methods:

- https://app.doj.mt.gov/apps/svow/
- https://www.nsopw.gov/en/Conditions/JurisdictionConditions/MT
- **By Phone:** 406-444-7068 *(sexual offender information)*
- **By Phone:** 406-444-9877 *(violent offender information)*
- **By Email:** dojsvor@mt.gov

Although the registration and website systems are helpful, they are not 100% accurate. Even though there is a punishment if a convicted sex offender does not register, some offenders do not register. Also, some offenders "plead out" of their cases and therefore may not have to register if their plea agreement does not include a registerable offense. Persons convicted of sex crimes before July 15, 1994 are not required to register for those crimes. Offenders who are not reported, charged, and convicted are not required to register.

As the protective caregiver—what if I am having trouble processing my feelings?

Following a disclosure of abuse, caregivers of victims commonly experienced guilt, sadness, shock, anger, depression and many other emotions. If the abuser was also a caregiver, there may be worries about housing and economic issues. Although the caregiver's emotions may be strong, it is important that the child believes the caregiver can handle the disclosure and its aftermath. It is vital that the caregiver speak to another competent adult, NOT the child, about their complex and strong feelings. It may be helpful for the parent to seek treatment with a counselor who is experienced in working with the families of victims.

Support groups with other caregivers of victims can also be very helpful during this time. Information on groups is available at your local CAC.

Caregivers also must separate their own emotions from those of the victim. If the child feels the emotions created by the disclosure are too intense, the child may withdraw or recant believing it will lessen the strain on the caregiver. Caregivers can help the victim express his/her own feelings about the abuse. This can be especially difficult for caregivers who experienced abuse themselves as a child. Watching a loved one go through the trauma of abuse may bring up old emotions. It is important that the caregiver resolves these feelings with a competent adult or counselor and NOT the child.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I report suspected child abuse?

Anyone can report suspected child abuse by calling the state hotline at:

1-866-820-5437

For those with hearing impairments, first dial 711 then dial the hotline number when prompted. When your call is answered, an intake specialist will collect information about your concerns and provide the report to appropriate local agencies for further investigation.

As a reporter your identity will not be shared with the subject(s) of the report and will only be known to individuals investigating the allegations.

What is normal sexual behavior in children?

"Normal" sexual behavior in children greatly depends on their developmental capacity. Here are some guidelines about developmentally appropriate sexual behaviors based on approximate age range:

1-2 years:

Children will openly explore their entire bodies, including their sexual organs. There is a curiosity about their bodies, bodies of others and everyone's "potty" behavior. Erections occur as physical reactions not related to sexuality. Children in this age group may soothe themselves by touching their own genitals and will exhibit a lack of "modesty" about their bodies.

3-5 years:

During this time, children recognize adults as caregivers and depend on them to keep them safe. Children may soothe themselves by rubbing their own genitals and may have a growing interest in bodily functions. At this age, an understanding of privacy and modesty develops, so rules and boundaries should be established by caregivers.

For additional information and concerns, contact a counselor or your local Children's Advocacy Center.

Frequently Asked Questions

6-8 years:

Children may become interested in viewing pictures of naked people. There is an awareness of gender differences and an interest in different body parts. Boys and girls may play doctor with peers. Children may begin to ask more questions of adults and can distinguish between sexual and non-sexual touches by age 7.

9-11 years:

There is usually a disinterest in the opposite sex, and children may view sex as "nasty" or "gross". They may talk about sex with friends and engage in "bathroom talk" and/or sexual jokes. Generally, they ask fewer questions of adults and gain information from friends.

12-17 years:

Adolescents seek information online or from friends, books, and magazines. Girls may begin to sexualize their dress and mannerisms. Masturbation is common in boys. From 12-14 there is limited dating and intimacy but by age 15 boys and girls are exploring "sex appeal".

Information About Victim's Rights

Montana law affords numerous rights to victims of crime. Pertinent sections of the Montana Code that pertain to victim's rights are set forth below.

Services to Victims of Crime

Montana Code Ann 46-24-201 (2019).

1 *Law enforcement personnel shall ensure that a victim of a crime receives emergency social and medical services as soon as possible and that the victim is given written notice, in the form supplied by the attorney general, of the following:*

- **(a)** *the availability of crime victim compensation;*
- **(b)** *access by the victim and the defendant to information about the case, including the right to receive documents under 46-24-106;*
- **(c)** *the role of the victim in the criminal justice process, including what the victim can expect from the system, as well as what the system expects from the victim, and including the right to be accompanied during interviews as provided in 46-24-106; and*
- **(d)** *stages in the criminal justice process of significance to a crime victim and the manner in which information about the stages may be obtained.*

2 *In addition to the information supplied under subsection (1), law enforcement personnel shall provide the victim with written information on community-based victim treatment programs, including medical, housing, counseling, and emergency services available in the community.*

3 *As soon as possible, law enforcement personnel shall give to the victim the following information:*

- **(a)** *the name, office address, and telephone number of a law enforcement officer assigned to investigate the case; and*
- **(b)** *the prosecuting attorney's name, office address, and telephone number.*

Information About Victims' Rights (continued)

Scheduling Changes

Montana Code Annotated 46-24-204 (2019).

1. *As soon as practicable, the prosecuting attorney shall notify a victim or witness of any scheduling changes that may affect the appearance of the victim or witness at a criminal justice proceeding that the victim or witness is scheduled to attend.*
2. *For the purpose of providing notification, the prosecuting attorney shall have available a system for promptly alerting a victim or witness that a scheduling change has been made.*

Property Return – Right to be Heard On Disposition of Evidence

Montana Code Ann 46-24-206 (2019).

1. *A law enforcement agency or prosecuting attorney shall promptly return any of the victim's property held for evidentiary purposes, unless there is a compelling law enforcement reason for retaining the property.*
2. *Before the destruction, disposal, or use of evidence that is not the victim's property, the court shall, as provided in 46-5-308, give the victim an opportunity to be heard as to the appropriate disposition of the evidence.*

Notice of Rights for Victims of Sexual Assault

Montana Code Ann 46-15-406.

The department of justice shall prepare a model form for use by health care facilities and law enforcement agencies that details the statutory rights of victims of sexual assault. These rights include the following:

1. *a victim may receive a sexual assault medical forensic examination and have evidence collected using a sexual assault evidence kit even if the victim does not want to participate in a criminal investigation;*
2. *a victim may not be billed for the cost of administering the sexual assault medical forensic examination or collecting evidence for the sexual assault evidence kit;*
3. *on request by a sexual assault victim to the investigating law enforcement agency, the victim may receive the following information:*
   - **(a)** *contact information for the officer investigating the case;*
   - **(b)** *the current status of the case;*
   - **(c)** *whether the case has been submitted to the office of the prosecuting attorney for review;*
   - **(d)** *whether the case has been closed and the documented reason for closure;*
   - **(e)** *if available, contact information for a local community-based victim services program;*
   - **(f)** *notifications of the victim's legal rights, including the right to file a petition requesting an order of protection; and*
   - **(g)** *the notices required by 46-24-203, 46-24-204, and 46-24-206.*

Services for Crime Victims

The Crime Victims Compensation Act

The Crime Victims Compensation Act provides financial assistance to help innocent crime victims with crime-related medical expenses. For eligible individuals, the Montana Crime Victim Compensation Program can help with loss of wages, medical expenses and funeral expenses incurred as the result of personal injury crimes. For eligibility, call the Montana Department of Justice Victim Services at 1-800-498-6455, or visit <https://dojmt.gov/victims/crime-victim-compensation>.

VINE *(Victim Information Notification Everyday)*

VINE is a free, confidential, and automated telephone, text messaging, and email system that provides custody status information about adult felony offenders under Montana Department of Corrections supervision – in prison and in community-based facilities and programs.

Anyone can call VINE at (800) 456-3076 to hear the current location of an inmate. The same information is available on the Internet at <https://www.vinelink.com> or via the downloadable VINELink app.

To use VINE, you will need the offender's name or his or her Department of Corrections (DOC) number. These are available on the CON offender locator website at <http://app.mt.gov/conweb>. If you don't know how to spell the offender's name, CON allows partial searches. Just enter a few letters of the first and last name.

Anyone can register with VINE in order to receive immediate notification in the event of an offender's release, transfer, or escape from prison.

U.S. Department of Justice Victim Notification

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) maintains the Victim Notification System (VNS) to ensure victims of federal crimes receive important information as their cases move through the criminal justice system. Victims may visit <https://www.notify.usdoj.gov/index.jsp> to register for free notifications.

CAC Client Case Information

NAME OF CAC: _____ **TODAY'S DATE:** _____

CAC ADVOCATE: _____ **PHONE:** _____

EMAIL: _____

DETECTIVE: _____ **PHONE:** _____

EMAIL: _____

LAW ENFORCEMENT CASE #: _____

CPS: _____ **PHONE:** _____

EMAIL: _____

OTHER: _____

_____

Outcome Measurement System (OMS)

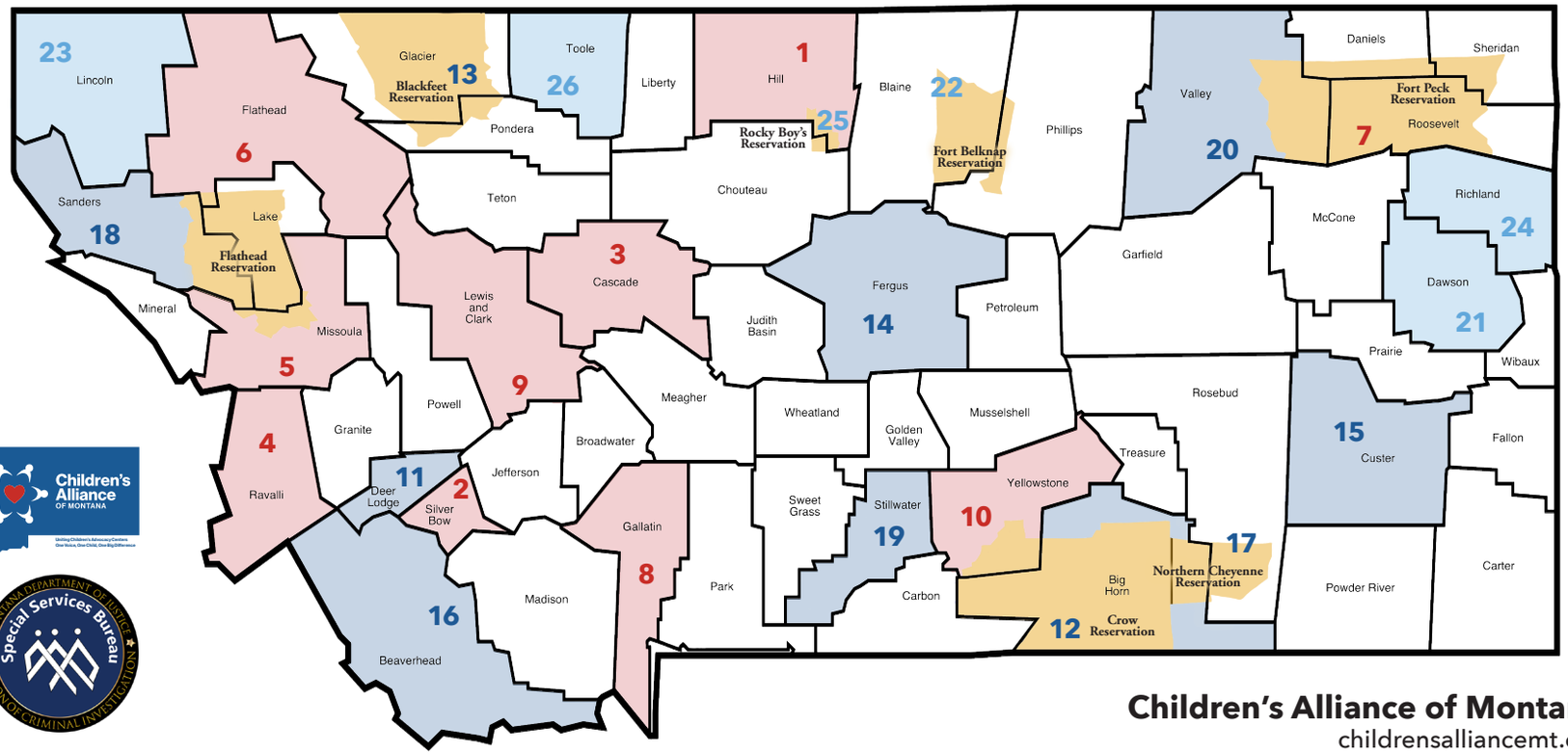
The OMS is a standardized, research-based set of surveys designed to measure CAC performance based on feedback from families and MDT members. Each survey is available on many formats and takes only a few minutes to complete. Results of the surveys help improve the quality of services provided to children and families.

Referrals to Services

- Montana Legal Services: <https://www.mtlsa.org> - assistance with parenting plans, orders of protection, and possible representation.
- Montana Law Library: <https://courts.mt.gov/library>
- Free MT civil/non-criminal legal advice: <https://askkarla.org>
- To be informed if someone is released from jail – call the jail and tell them "please put me on ___'s booking card for safety reasons".

COUNTY JAIL PHONE: _____

Montana Children's Advocacy Centers



Children's Alliance of Montana
childrensalliancemt.org

National Children's Alliance Accredited Programs

Meet the 10 standards for accreditations established by the National Children's alliance.

1. Bullhook CAC
   406-395-4305
2. Butte Child Evaluation Center
   406-490-9350
3. Cascade County CAC
   406-268-3756
4. Emma's House CAC
   406-363-7216
5. First Step Resource Center
   406-329-5776
6. Flathead County CAC
   406-758-5593
7. Fort Peck Tribes CAC
   406-653-1494
8. Gallatin County CAC
   406-587-7511
9. Lewis and Clark County CAC
   406-693-0028
10. Yellowstone Valley CAC
    406-598-0791

Developing Programs

Primarily forensic interview facilities, some with active multidisciplinary teams.

11. Anaconda Child Evaluation Center
    406-490-9350
12. Big Horn County CAC
    406-679-1361
13. Blackfeet CAC
14. Central Montana CAC
    406-535-8127
15. Custer County CAC
    406-234-1385
16. Dillon Child Evaluation Center
    406-490-9350
17. Northern Cheyenne Care Center
18. Sanders County CAC
    406-268-3746
19. Stillwater County CAC
    406-321-3641
20. Valley County CAC
    406-228-4333

Interview Rooms

21. Dawson County Interview Room
    406-377-2532
22. Fort Belknap Interview Room
23. Lincoln County Interview Room
    406-283-1003
24. Richland County Interview Room
    406-433-1903
25. Rocky Boy MDT
26. Toole County Interview Room
    406-450-0335

Report Suspected Child Abuse

Anyone can report suspected child abuse by calling the state hotline at:

1-866-820-5437

Your identity will not be shared with the subject(s) of the report and will only be known to individuals investigating the allegations.