



Vermilion
County
Child Advocacy Center

We stand for children's rights

What is the Vermilion County Child Advocacy Center?

The Vermilion County Child Advocacy Center (VCCAC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a coordinated, multidisciplinary, and trauma-informed response to the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases in Vermilion County. Children are referred to VCCAC by Law Enforcement or the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. If you suspect abuse, call your local law enforcement agency, 911, or DCFS at 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)



"To understand what a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is, you must understand what children face without one. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again, to doctors, cops, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges and others"

-National Children's Alliance



Vermilion County Child Advocacy Center

**Together We Are
Superhero Strong!**

Vermilion County Child Advocacy Center

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What happens at VCCAC?

VCCAC provides a safe, neutral, child-friendly setting for the investigation of child abuse. We work together as a

multidisciplinary team with law enforcement, DCFS, the Vermillion County

State's Attorney, and service providers in order to gather needed information. This

process limits the number of interviews that the child will have to take part in and

keep the best interest of the child in mind throughout the investigation process.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ARRIVE?

When you arrive at VCCAC, you will be shown to a private family room. The family room is furnished with items that make your child feel comfortable. An advocate will speak with you to explain the process and answer questions you may have. The advocate is a resource for your family if you have questions or are in need of services.

CAN I WATCH THE INTERVIEW?

Only the child and the interviewer are allowed in the interview room. This is in place to reduce possible stress that can be placed on a child and to provide a neutral setting. Only members of the multidisciplinary team are allowed in the observation room. Team members meet with the parents or caregivers after the interview to explain the process and discuss what will happen next.

WHO WILL MY CHILD TALK TO?

Your child will talk to a Forensic Interviewer. Our Forensic Interviewers are specially trained in the ChildFirst interview protocol and have experience in talking to children. The ChildFirst protocol ensures that our interviewers gather information in a non-threatening manner, while keeping the best interest of your child in mind.

CAN I TALK TO MY CHILD

ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED?

If your child brings up the subject and wants to talk about it, listen without commenting or questioning. Be sure to reassure your child that he/she will be alright and they are not in trouble.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER OUR VISIT TO THE VCCAC?

Following the forensic interview, the investigative team will be in touch to let you know how they plan to proceed with the investigation. You may have the opportunity to speak with the team to ask questions and express any concerns. If you choose, the advocate can provide follow-up calls to see how you and your child are doing. The advocate will also provide referrals to counseling, medical, or other community resources.

