

Partner Agencies

Office of Bristol County
District Attorney
508-997-0711

Bristol County Police Departments

Massachusetts Department of
Children & Families

Fall River | 508-235-9800
New Bedford | 508-910-1000
Taunton/Attleboro | 508-821-7000
After Hours Hotline | 800-792-5200

Disabled Persons Protection
Commission
800-426-9009

Massachusetts Pediatric Sexual Assault
Nurse Examiner (Pedi-SANE) Program



MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

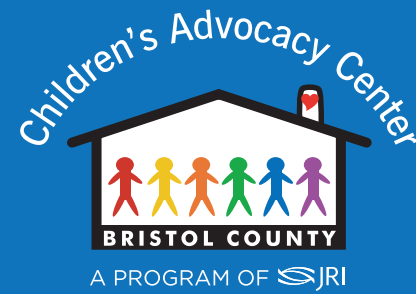


NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®

Massachusetts Pediatric SANE Program



Thomas M. Quinn III

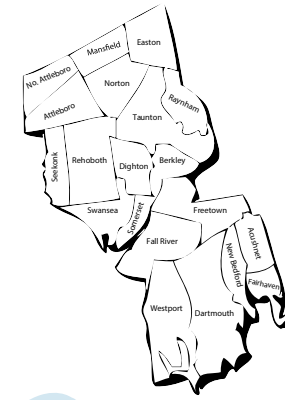


Our Mission:

To empower children and families to heal from the trauma of abuse and violence through community partnerships, education and the pursuit of justice.

www.cacofbc.org

Towns and cities
represented
in Bristol County



Mandated Reporting

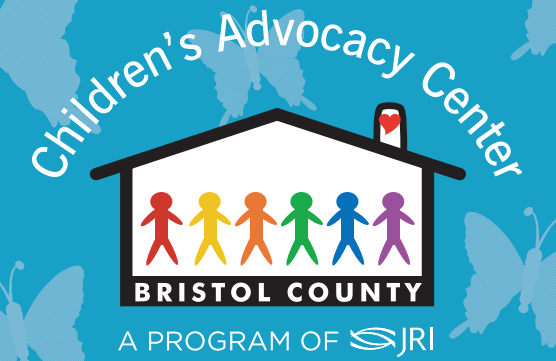
If you suspect any case of child abuse or neglect, report it immediately by calling the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (DCF) or the local police department. Incidents of abuse to disabled adults should be reported to the Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

Referrals

The CAC serves as a clearing house to the public by answering questions and providing guidance on how to navigate the various child welfare systems as well as provide connection to community-based services. Referrals for forensic interviews to the CAC are only received from DCF, local police departments and/or the District Attorney's office. Health consultations and examinations from the Pedi-SANE are available to community medical providers as needed and can be accessed by calling the CAC. Note: families cannot self-refer for health examination. Community health provider, DCF or law enforcement referral is required.



58 Arch Street, Fall River, MA 02724
508-674-6111 | www.cacofbc.org



Assisting Survivors of Child Abuse and Their Families

58 Arch Street, Fall River, MA 02724
508-674-6111 | www.cacofbc.org

About the Children's Advocacy Center

The Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County, formed in 2007, is a private, 501c(3) non-profit agency serving children and intellectually disabled adults who have been victims of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse or witness to violence. The agency provides a child-friendly environment for the investigation and the ongoing treatment of victims and their families. In 2017 the CAC became a program of Justice Resource Institute (JRI).

The Children's Advocacy Center model is based on a philosophy that it takes a team of dedicated professionals sharing their knowledge, skills, and resources to serve the needs of children and families who are victims of abuse.

Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT)

The MDT provides collective expertise for both investigation and intervention of allegations of abuse. The MDT consists of members from partner agencies throughout the county that may include law enforcement, the Department of Children & Families, the District Attorney's office, health and mental health services, family advocates and CAC staff.

Forensic Interview

At the CAC, forensic interviews are conducted by a specially trained professional, experienced in talking to children about difficult subjects. This allows the investigators to obtain an impartial account of the child's abuse that is both accurate, and as complete as possible, without causing further trauma to the child. Because children can become confused or traumatized when interviewed by several people regarding an allegation of abuse, the multi-disciplinary team observes the interview from a separate room using closed-circuit technology.

Multi-Session Interviews (MSI)

Multi-session Interviews (MSI) can be conducted to meet the needs of a subset of children who are challenged by the demands of a single session approach because of young age, temperament, communication difficulties, or trauma.

Family Advocacy

Family Advocates are responsible for providing information, support and advocacy services to victims, witnesses, and their families. The Family Advocate assists families and victims by coordinating connections to evidence based mental health treatment and any other community services. The Family Advocate serves as a liaison between the family and service providers and will remain involved for as long the family and/or victim find it necessary. Advocates are available to a family indefinitely.

Case Review and Case Tracking

Case review and case tracking help ensure that children and families are receiving the support they need to move forward with their recovery. During case review the MDT reconvenes to share information and support regarding prosecution of the case, available community resources and general advocacy. Collaboration and information sharing are essential to the investigation and prosecution, as well as service provision to victims of abuse to ensure no child falls through the cracks.

Health Services

The multi-disciplinary team includes a Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (Pedi-SANE). All Pedi-SANE services are at no charge to families, with the exception of non-serologic lab testing which is charged to the family's insurance carrier.

The Pedi-SANE offers:

- Consultations with children, parents and other providers to address health needs.
- Non-invasive, expert sexual abuse examinations, including photo documentation and evidence collection as indicated.
- A "Do-No-Harm" care model focused on the health and healing of the child and family.

CSEC Service Coordination

Case Management services for all victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) are provided at the CAC. CSEC refers to any person under the age of 18 who engages, agrees to engage in, or offers to engage in sexual conduct in exchange for anything of value including money, food, shelter, clothing, education, or care. Services include the coordination of investigative and service teams involved in the youth's life, advocacy, and ongoing tracking to support and encourage the youth's safety in the community. In addition, the CAC provides training to MDT members, as well as the community, in identifying and responding to allegations of CSEC.

Healing & Resiliency Program (HARP)

HARP launched in July 2018 and was developed in response to a growing need to treat children who have been exposed to potentially traumatic events such as physical or sexual abuse, witness to domestic violence, or a recent disclosure of physical or sexual abuse. Children who come to the CAC, and who have experienced a recent traumatic event, may be at risk to develop posttraumatic symptoms, which can affect the way they think, feel, and behave. Clinicians are trained in Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention (CFTSI), a brief intervention designed to decrease the negative impact of these events and aid in a child's recovery and healing process. CFTSI is an evidenced based treatment model consisting of 5-8 sessions, with a significant focus on child and parent/caregiver support and understanding of how the traumatic event is affecting the child. When appropriate, HARP clinicians can make referrals to other providers in the community, as well.

Education and Prevention

The CAC trains and educates youth and adults about child abuse and implements prevention programs throughout Bristol County. Our Education and Outreach Program provides free training in recognizing and responding to suspicion of child abuse, including mandated reporting, as well as general information about our services. We reach an array of audiences including parents, guardians and any professionals working with children in youth serving organizations. The CAC is a regional leader in providing mental health clinicians with free training on evidence-based trauma treatment modalities and serves as a resource for medical professionals. The CAC convenes alliances in Bristol County and trains youth serving organizations to support drug endangered children whose caregivers have substance use disorders.