



A Child's Place, PA

Child Advocacy Center

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Agency Information Kit



Who We Are

The mission of A Child's Place, PA is to improve the health, safety, and well-being of children, particularly those at risk for abuse and neglect.

A Child's Place, PA (ACP) is a private, non-profit organization that was established in 1999 by Dr. Mary Carrasco to coordinate services to ensure the accuracy and speed of investigations, helping to protect children from further abuse. ACP is a fully accredited Child Advocacy Center with a staff that has, for over a quarter of a century, fostered relationships with and provided child abuse services to Western Pennsylvania counties, and has been involved in more than 30,000 cases of suspected child abuse.

Over time, ACP has evolved into a multi-purpose agency that is passionate about serving children and families and continues to offer programs intent on preventing and stopping child abuse. ACP currently has six Child Advocacy Center (CAC) locations, all fully accredited by the National Children's Alliance, including the host site in Allegheny County and satellite sites in Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties. In addition to CAC services, ACP also offers prevention programs including The Healthy Parenting Program in Allegheny, Beaver, and Fayette Co., and Mom's Turn, for Allegheny Co. residents involved in the criminal justice system.

Meet Our Team

ACP is led by a team of pediatric experts in the field of child abuse and neglect, and Masters and PhD level forensic interviewers with a combined knowledge and expertise in the fields of Psychology, Social Work, Education, Counseling and Child Development.

As a research-driven agency, ACP is continuously seeking to evolve and improve. With expansion into outlying counties and services, ACP's ability to further engage and affect those communities has improved dramatically.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

A Child's Place, PA follows a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) approach to child abuse intervention response. It is through this approach where the roles of each agency within the MDT are defined. In each county, ACP relies upon the expertise of Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, CAC, Victim Advocacy, Mental Health, and Medical Providers to guide the investigations and services to the victims and their families.

What We Do

PREVENTION

Healthy Parenting Program

National parenting and family support program designed to improve and prevent behavioral and emotional challenges in children and teenagers.

Mom's Turn

Services available to Allegheny Co. residents currently or previously involved in the criminal justice system, including case management, referrals, and more.

ASSESSMENT

Forensic Interviews

Structured conversation between a trained forensic interviewer and a child. ACP uses a research-based protocol intended to elicit details of allegations of abuse, neglect, and witness to violence.

Forensic Medical Exams

Medical evaluation of the child by a physician specially trained in child abuse and neglect. Ensures the safety and well-being of the child.

Foster Care Medical Exams

Medical evaluation of children entering, transferring within, or exiting the foster care system within Allegheny County.

Family Advocacy

Offered at all ACP sites, provide ongoing support and resources to caregivers prior to, during, and after their forensic services with us.

EDUCATION

Physician Consultations

Physicians, who are national experts in the field of child abuse and neglect, provide consultation at the request of MDIT members.

Training + Outreach

A Child's Place, PA staff possess expertise in a variety of areas and are available to assist and provide trainings in child abuse, prevention, and child safety.

PREVENTION

Mom's Turn

Established in 2019, Mom's Turn provides services to currently and/or previously incarcerated women of the Allegheny County area. Assistance is offered to women who have had involvement in the criminal justice system, have a history of trauma from a young age, and are residents of Allegheny County.

Mom's turn offers a variety of services in both the community, within the Allegheny County Jail, and at the women's facility of PROGRAM for Offenders, including evidence-based parenting classes, anger management classes, and case management services.

For more information on Mom's Turn, please visit www.achildsplacepa.org/moms-turn.



www.achildsplacepa.org/moms-turn



momsturn@achildsplacepa.org

Healthy Parenting Program

The Healthy Parenting Program offers parents and families support with a broad range of strategies and tools to help foster healthy, happy families, using the internationally recognized parenting curriculum, the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) and Parents as Teachers (PAT). Triple P is an evidence-based program that focuses on goal-setting and problem solving specific to individual families' needs, regardless of their circumstances. It aims to prevent problems in the family, school, and community before they arise and to create family environments that encourage children to realize their full potential. PAT provides a wide array of services to families with children from prenatal through kindergarten, and also offers deep insights into early childhood development.

The Healthy Parenting certified Parent Educators offer families an opportunity to participate in free parenting classes, which are available in both group and individual sessions. As a result, caregivers raise happier children, are better equipped to manage behavior, and can set rules and routines to make their family feel more confident and successful.



The Healthy Parenting Program is available to residents of Allegheny, Beaver, and Fayette County. For more information on The Healthy Parenting Program, please visit www.achildsplacepa.org/healthy-parenting-program.



www.achildsplacepa.org/healthy-parenting



healthyparenting@achildsplacepa.org

ASSESSMENT

Forensic Interviews

A forensic interview is a recorded interview designed to elicit a child's unique information when there are concerns of possible abuse or neglect, or when the child has witnessed violence against another person. The forensic interview is conducted in a supportive and non-leading manner by a professional trained in the NICHD Forensic Interview model. Interviews are observed by law enforcement and/or child protective services. Forensic interviews are available by appointment at all ACP locations.

Forensic Medical Exam

Forensic medical exams are highly recommended for all patients following the forensic interview, as it offers families a chance to speak with a specialized medical professional about the health and well-being of their child. The exam allows the physician to visually examine the child and look for signs of abuse and/or neglect. This exam is designed to be child-friendly and non-threatening for the child.

Foster Care Medical Exam

ACP also provides intake, transfer, and discharge medical exams for children going through placements in to and out of the foster care system in Allegheny County. These medical exams are conducted by our Certified Nurse Practitioner and are only available at the ACP Allegheny site.

Family Advocacy

Available to all ACP sites, the Family Advocate provides and coordinates services with families and communities that foster strength, healthy living, and overall well-being. They also provide support in a case management style and act as a liaison between families, staff, the community, and other family-related services.



Physician Consultations

ACP Physicians, national experts in the field of child abuse and neglect, provide consultation at the request of MDIT members. For more information, please call our main line: 412-232-7200.

Training + Outreach

A Child's Place, PA staff possess expertise in a variety of areas and are available to assist and provide trainings in child abuse, prevention, and child safety to various audiences:

- Mandated Reporter Training + Childline
- First Responder Training and Child Abuse
- Warning Signs and Prevention of Child Abuse
- Medical Findings in Child Abuse Cases
- Forensic Interviewing and the CAC
- Court and Testimony regarding delayed disclosure and recantation
- Child Trauma/Grooming/Disclosures/Recantation Training
- Internet Safety/Human Trafficking



Find Us

Allegheny Co. CAC

Mercy Health Center
1515 Locust, St #300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 232-8817

Healthy Parenting: Allegheny

801 N. Negley Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 650-0455

Beaver Co. CAC

1217 7th Ave #1
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
(412) 232-8837

Healthy Parenting: Beaver

1217 7th Ave #1
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
(412) 650-0455

Fayette Co. CAC

6 Oliver Rd #119
Uniontown, PA 15401
(412) 232-8837

Healthy Parenting: Fayette

6 Oliver Road #120
Uniontown, PA 15401
(412) 650-0455

Greene Co. CAC

8 W. High St
Waynesburg, PA 15370
(412) 232-8837

Mom's Turn

Mercy Health Center
1515 Locust, St #300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 748-1764

Washington Co. CAC

Washington Hospital
155 Wilson Ave
Washington, PA 15301
(412) 232-8837



www.achildsplacepa.org



info@achildsplacepa.org



A Child's Place, PA Child Advocacy Center



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https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1PMR04R2PKY15/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

Westmoreland Co. CAC

8981 Norwin Ave #103
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
(412) 232-8817