



MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Myth: It's only abuse if it's violent.

Fact: Physical abuse is just one type of child abuse. Child neglect, sexual and emotional abuse can inflict just as much damage, and since they're not always as obvious, others are less likely to intervene.

Myth: Only bad people abuse their children.

Fact: Not all abusive parents or guardians intentionally harm their children. Many have been victims of abuse themselves and don't know any other way to parent. Others may be struggling with mental health issues or substance abuse problems.

Myth: Abuse doesn't happen in "good" families.

Fact: Abuse and neglect doesn't only happen in poor families or bad neighborhoods. These behaviors cross all racial, economic, and cultural lines. Sometimes, families who seem to have it all from the outside are hiding a different story behind closed doors.

Myth: Most child abusers are strangers.

Fact: While abuse by strangers does happen, most abusers are family members or others close to the family.

Myth: Abused children always grow up to be abusers.

Fact: It is true that abused children are more likely to repeat the cycle as adults, unconsciously repeating what they experienced as children. On the other hand, many adult survivors of child abuse have a strong motivation to protect their children against what they went through and become excellent parents.

www.helpguide.org

Our offices will be closed on September 7th in observance of Labor Day!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September
07 Office closed
10 Noon Networking - Quincy
October
08 Noon Networking - Quincy

We currently have the following volunteer needs:

- Happy Bear Presentations
- CASA Volunteers
- Fundraising
- Mailings

If you would like to help, please contact our office at 217-223-2272.

Our agency could not continue its mission of advocating for children without your help. You can help by:

- Monetary Donation
- ANC Foundation Donation
- Office Supply Donation

PARTNERING WITH HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Training for Adams County CASA volunteers took place during the month of August. Due to spacing concerns regarding COVID-19, the training was held for the first time at Hope Lutheran Church in Quincy. The church has been gracious enough to allow us to utilize their space for trainings and meetings for a minimal fee when spacing is of a concern. Pictured right is from one night of training. If you would like to know more about the CASA program and be the voice for an abused or neglected child in our community, please call the office at 217-223-2272. Additional information is also available on our website.



CHILDREN LIVING IN METH LABS

Children living at methamphetamine laboratories are at increased risk for severe neglect and are more likely to be physically and sexually abused by members of their own family and known individuals at the site. Parents and caregivers who are meth dependent typically become careless, irritable, and violent, often losing their capacity to nurture their children. In these situations, the failure of parents to protect their children's safety and to provide for essential food, dental and medical care (including immunizations, proper hygiene, and grooming), and appropriate sleeping conditions is the norm. Older siblings in these homes often assume the role of caretaker. Some addicted parents fall into a deep sleep for days and cannot be awakened, further increasing the likelihood that their children will be exposed to toxic chemicals in their environment and to abusive acts committed by the other drug-using individuals who are present. Children living at meth lab sites may experience the added trauma of witnessing violence, being forced to participate in violence, caring for an incapacitated or injured parent or sibling, or watching the police arrest and remove a parent. Many children who live in meth homes are also exposed to pornographic materials or overt sexual activity.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/bulletins/children/pg5.html>

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who has made a donation to our agency, either through private donations or grants. Without your support, we could not continue our mission of protecting abused and neglected children in our community.

We truly appreciate your generosity!

Please see page 3 for the agency's response to COVID-19

**** When shopping at Amazon Smile, choose Advocacy Network for Children as your charity and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to us! ****



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AGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Amid the ongoing concerns over COVID-19, our agency continues to take steps to keep our staff, volunteers and clients safe. Staff began returning to the office in shifts on June 1st with changes put in place. However, with COVID-19 cases increasing in Adams County, staff returned to working from home on July 27th. When needed, a limited number of staff will be at the office at various times for meetings or interviews.

Our Children's Advocacy Center staff continue to do forensic interviews. Safety precautions are in place for our staff, MDT members and children and families and PPE supplies are available if needed. Attendance at court hearings is done at the direction of the respective county. Staff is doing follow-up contact with clients to check on their well-being. Mental health providers remain willing to provide mental health services to our clients via telemental health or in person with precautions in place.

Our CASA staff is constantly in touch with its volunteers for assistance and guidance as it relates to child visits via technology and help with case reports. Home visits are being conducted with precautions in place for the safety of all parties. Attendance at juvenile court case hearings are being done at the direction of the respective county. Trainings for new volunteers are being done via Zoom or in locations where appropriate spacing can be made.

We are following all guidelines put into place by our various grantors (both state and federal), the CDC and local and state officials.

We need to remain vigilant and continue to all work together to reduce the spread of this virus. At the same time, with the stress and uncertainty this pandemic is causing families, we fear child abuse cases will go up in the coming months. If you suspect a child is being abused, please call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-2873.

Please visit our website or Facebook page for new or additional updates. Our website also contains a complete list of staff names, phone numbers and office locations.