



## WHAT IS FORENSIC INTERVIEWING

Forensic interviewing is a first step in most child protective services (CPS) investigations, one in which a trained professional interviews a child to find out if he or she has been abused or neglected. Forensic interviews provide children a safe place to tell their story to an expert who will listen to them, protect them, and help them heal.

In addition to determining whether abuse or neglect has occurred, this approach produces evidence that will stand up in court if the investigation leads to criminal prosecution. Properly conducted forensic interviews are legally sound in part because they ensure the interviewer's objectivity, employ non-leading techniques, and emphasize careful documentation of the interview.

Forensic interviews ultimately reduce the number of times the child would have to share and relive their story, by inviting everyone who is involved with the case to be in the same place at the same time. This helps the child who has experienced trauma to begin their healing process.

At times, our interviewers will conduct an extended forensic interview, which takes place over several sessions. The reason for this is that some children need more than one session to establish trust, feel comfortable with the interviewer, or even if they become exhausted from telling and, to some extent, re-living what they have been through.

We are proud to say that our agency has 6 trained forensic interviewers. In addition to our Director of Forensic Interviewing, Jessica Bolton, trained staff include Susan Tode, Todd Shackelford, Jamie Carroll, Karolina Anton and Danielle Buss. Each has been accredited with numerous hours of continuing education on forensic interviewing. To date, they have conducted nearly 1,950 forensic interviews of children.

*"Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me."*

- Fred Rogers, television personality

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### June

14 CASA Noon Networking  
20 Office closed

#### July

04 Office closed

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

## ***BE A PART OF OUR FUNDRAISING DINNER COMMITTEE***

The agency's Fundraising Dinner Committee is gearing up to start working on the annual fundraising dinner. Mark your calendar for Friday, October 21, 2022. We are continuing with the popular theme "Tailgate to Celebrate". The dinner is the major fundraising event for the agency and is designed to be a fun and enjoyable evening for everyone.

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this important committee in any capacity, please call the office and ask to speak to Diane.

## ***SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS***

If you are a member of a church, business, or service organization and would like more information about our agency and its mission of protecting the children in our community, we would love to schedule a time to speak with you. Just call the office to set up a time.

## ***CONGRATULATIONS BOB BERGMAN***

Bob Bergman was chosen to be one of the recipients of The President's Volunteer Service Gold Awards. During National Volunteer Month in March, Illinois CASA celebrated volunteer advocates across their network and thanked them for their service to children who have been abused and neglected.

Danielle Buss, CASA Manager, nominated Bob for this award. Bob has been a CASA volunteer for the agency for 16 years and has advocated for 21 children during that time. His passion for speaking on behalf of and helping these children is truly admirable and he is truly deserving of this award. Thank you Bob for your dedication and commitment to these children.



## ***THANK YOU***

We are overwhelmed with the support we received from our April appeal. We did the appeal this year during and in support of National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. To date, we received \$23,540 for the agency and \$850.00 in support of our Foundation.

Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is truly appreciated!

## ***OFFICE CLOSED***

Our offices will be closed on May 30th for Memorial Day and on June 20th for Juneteenth Day. The staff at Advocacy Network for Children would like to wish you all safe and wonderful holidays.

**\*\* 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!\*\***



1420 Harrison Street, Quincy, IL 62301  
217.223.2272 (phone) 217.223.6791 (fax)

**[www.advonet.org](http://www.advonet.org)**

