



THE EFFECT OF INTRAFAMILIAL SEXUAL ABUSE

Intrafamilial sexual abuse means sexual abuse that occurs within the family. In this form of abuse, a family member involves a child in (or exposes a child to) sexual behaviors or activities. The “family member” may not be a blood relative, but could be someone who is considered “part of the family,” such as a godparent or very close friend. In calendar year 2022, 68% of our Children’s Advocacy Center cases were intrafamilial.

Sexual abuse of a child by a trusted adult puts tremendous strain on relationships within the family. Some family members may find it hard to believe the abuser could do such a thing, and take sides (or feel pressured to take sides) over who is telling the truth. Family members may also struggle with how to manage their divided loyalties toward the abuser and the victim. Even in families that accept that the abuse occurred, reactions to the abuser may run from “lock him up and throw away the key” to “hate the sin but love the sinner.”

After disclosing, children and adolescents who have been sexually abused by a family member are often tormented by self doubt, self blame, fear of the abuser, and distress over what their disclosure has done to the family. Sometimes, in a desperate attempt to make everything better in the family, they may change their story or even deny that the abuse occurred.

Non-offending parents are the single most important resource that children have after they have experienced intrafamilial abuse. As hard as it may be to report sexual abuse that has been perpetrated by a family member, this is the best thing a person can do to help their entire family heal.

Children can recover from sexual abuse, with the help of protective, supportive parents or caregivers. Seeking help from a counselor who specializes in child sexual abuse can help the child and family to cope with what has happened. With the proper help and support system, the child and the family can overcome and heal from the abuse that has occurred.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

09 CASA Noon Networking—Quincy

13 Office closed

20 Office closed

March

09 CASA 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:

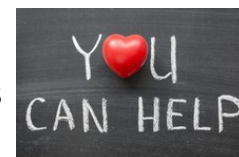
- Monetary Donation
- ANC Foundation Donation
- Office Supply Donation

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.

CASA VOLUNTEERS DESPERATELY NEEDED

We need CASA volunteers in all seven area counties we serve. Trainings will be held in the upcoming months in various counties. CASA volunteers are trained community volunteers appointed by a judge to speak up for abused or neglected children in court. Trainings are free and all materials are provided. No special experience is required.



If you would like to be the voice for an abused or neglected child in our community, please call the office at 217-223-2272 or Danielle Buss, CASA Manager, at 217-617-5438. Additional information about our CASA program and upcoming trainings will be available on our website or Facebook page as they are scheduled.

BE A PART OF OUR FUNDRAISING DINNER COMMITTEE

We are looking for a few people to join our fundraising dinner committee. This committee works together on the agency's biggest fundraiser of the year, our annual dinner. If you are interested or would like more information, please call the office at 217-223-2272 and ask to speak to Diane. The committee will begin meeting in May or June.

MANDATED REPORTER TRAININGS

Advocacy Network for Children provides mandated reporter trainings at no charge for individuals directly involved with children. Mandated Reporters include medical personnel, school personnel, social service/mental health personnel, law enforcement personnel, coroner/medical examiner personnel, child care personnel, and members of the clergy.

Please call the Advocacy Network for Children at 217-223-2272 if you would like more information or to schedule a training. This training can be scheduled in Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Pike, McDonough, Morgan, Schuyler or Scott County.

THANK YOU

The Morgan County CASA program was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$422.00 from the Jacksonville Children's Foundation. As stipulated in the grant, funds will be used for program supplies for a CASA training in Morgan County.

Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is truly appreciated!

**** 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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