



June 2023

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 CAC Manager, Jamie Carroll, trained staff include Susan Tode, Todd Shackelford, Karolina Anton-Mumma, Danielle Buss, and Jess Bullard. Each has been accredited with numerous hours of continuing education on forensic interviewing.

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

- Nelson Mandela

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

08 CASA Noon Networking

19 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

SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

The agency's Fundraising Dinner Committee is gearing up to start working on the annual fundraising dinner. Mark your calendar for **Friday, October 13, 2023**. 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.

WHAT'S NEW? GUIDED LEARNING FOR CASA VOLUNTEERS

We are happy to announce that the CASA program is offering a new training option for CASA volunteers. Guided learning allows a person to train on their own time, in their own home and on their own schedule. Informational Zoom meetings regarding the new guided learning are being held on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. through November.

If you ever wanted to become a CASA volunteer and couldn't commit to a full week's training or an accelerated training on a weekend you weren't available, this is for you. For more information, please call the office and speak to one of our CASA staff or visit the agency's Facebook page.

THANK YOU

We are overwhelmed with the support we received from our April appeal. We did the appeal during and in support of National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. To date, we received nearly \$20,000.00 for the agency and over \$1,200.00 in support of our Foundation.

The agency was awarded a generous \$20,000.00 grant for operating expenses from the J.W. Gardner II Foundation. The Foundation has been a supporter of the agency for many years.



Your thoughtfulness and support of our agency is truly appreciated!

OFFICE CLOSED

Our offices will be closed on June 19th for the Juneteenth Day holiday. The staff at Advocacy Network for Children would like to wish you all a safe and wonderful holiday.



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