



"Standing Strong for Abused Children"

March 2025

ILLINOIS ENACTS CHILD ABUSE NOTICE ACT (PUBLIC ACT 103-0813)

Effective January 1, 2025, Illinois requires certain establishments, such as hotels, airports, sports venues, truck stops, hospitals, etc., to display notices informing minors about physical and sexual abuse and how to report it.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in partnership with Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI), is developing these notices in multiple languages.

Businesses must post them in restrooms or public areas, with noncompliance resulting in fines. This law strengthens child protection efforts ensuring minors have access to critical reporting information.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) are child-focused centers that coordinate the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse while helping abused children heal. Illinois has 41 CACs across the state ensuring that no matter where a child or family lives, they will have access to the quality care of a CAC. Advocacy Network for Children is among those and has 7 centers covering its 9 county region. While all accredited Children's Advocacy Centers share common elements, each is unique and designed to meet the needs of its particular community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March
13 CASA noon networking - Zoom
April
10 CASA noon networking - Zoom
18 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

STAFF NEWS

We would like to welcome our new employee, Chelsea Ewing. Chelsea is the new CASA Coordinator for our Morgan County CASA program based in Jacksonville. Chelsea started on February 20th. Welcome to the team Chelsea!

STAY TUNED

April is National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. The agency is planning a number of events throughout our eleven county region. As events are planned, they will be posted on our Facebook page and will be included in next month's newsletter.

SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

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 be happy to schedule a time to speak with you and explain our programs in detail and the impact abuse and neglect can have on a child. Please call the office at 217-223-2272.

SIGNS OF POSSIBLE SEXUAL ABUSE

Here are five signs of possible sexual abuse. If you notice a child experiencing any of these signs, please call and report immediately. You can make a report to the child abuse hotline at 1-800-252-2873, your local DCFS office or your local law enforcement office.

1. Symptoms of Anxiety; 2. Abnormal Sexual Behaviors or Symptoms; 3. Changes in Personality or Mood; 4. General Behavioral Changes; and 5. Changes in Beliefs or Discussions.

Your call could save the life of a child.

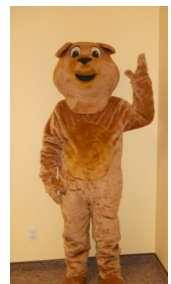
(www.onewithcourage.org)

PREVENTION PROGRAM

Advocacy Network for Children offers a child sexual abuse prevention program to schools, pre-schools, and other organizations throughout West Central Illinois at no cost.

Illinois law requires schools to implement a child sexual abuse prevention program to students in Pre-K through 5th grade. The curriculum we use, Happy Bear and P.S. It's My Body!, is evidence based and age appropriate.

If you would like more information, would like to schedule a presentation, or would like to volunteer to help with presentations, please call the office and ask to speak to Anita Hanke.



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