



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER:

Ask all the questions you have, learn more, or start the process by calling 231-305-6745.



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Eagle Village relies on a network of donors and volunteers to carry out our mission. If you have the time or the means, please consider lending your support. Eagle Village is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization.

Through God's help and love, we use residential services, intervention, foster care, and adoption services to be THE solution for Michigan's struggling kids and families.

Learn more at eaglevillage.org.



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CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER



Ensuring that children's voices are heard and carefully responded to.



THE EAGLE VILLAGE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Eagle Village is an organization that has taken on and welcomed the role of child advocacy through multiple programs since our beginning in 1968.

Child welfare and safety is our highest priority and we work with multidisciplinary teams to conduct forensic interviews and advocate for the children who have a reported case of abuse. The goal is to ensure that children's voices are heard and carefully responded to. We also provide our clients with access to additional services provided at Eagle Village such as counseling, and other therapies.

Our Children's Advocacy Center provides a welcoming atmosphere conveniently located in Big Rapids, and people who understand and can help you navigate the system.

This confidential service is for Osceola and Mecosta counties.

Call the Eagle Village Children's Advocacy Center at: 231-305-6745.

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OUR SERVICES

Forensic Interviewing

A forensic interview is a recorded interview that aims to gather specific information from a child who may have experienced abuse or witnessed violence.

It is conducted in a supportive manner by a Multi-Disciplinary Team, or MDT. These teams are made up of social services, prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, mental health services, medical services, and advocacy services.

Representatives from relevant agencies, such as law enforcement and child protective services, remotely observe these interviews as part of the investigation process.

Advocacy

Our Family Advocate provides ongoing support to every child and family who visits the center. This relationship extends beyond the initial visit and covers the entire investigation and court process.

The support may involve crisis counseling, referrals to sexual abuse treatment programs, medical examinations, access to community resources, and prevention education.

Education

We also provide our clients with access to additional services provided at Eagle Village such as counseling, and other therapies.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Before the Visit

Typically, our Intake Coordinator will contact you to verify your appointment. They will guide you through the interview procedure, furnish you with our address and contact details, discuss how to prepare your child for the visit, and address any inquiries you may have.

Pre-Interview Meeting

Upon your arrival, you will receive a warm welcome at the entrance and be escorted to our Waiting Area where your child will be accompanied by a CAC staff member. From there, you will head to our Family Room. Here, you will have the chance to meet with our Family Advocate and complete consent forms.

Subsequently, you will have the opportunity to meet with the investigative team before your child's interview. During this meeting, you will be introduced to the team and have an opportunity to address any questions or concerns you may have.

The Interview

Following your meeting with the team, the Interviewer will accompany your child to our interview room for the interview. It is important to note that caregivers are not permitted to be present in the interview room or observe the interview. This is to ensure that the child feels comfortable sharing their story and providing important details without any potential influence from outside sources.

Additionally, caregivers may find it challenging to control their emotions while listening to their child talk about alleged abuse. Therefore, during this time, you will have the opportunity to meet with our Family Advocate who will equip you with education, resources, and provide support while you wait. Feel free to discuss any topic of your choice during this period.

Post Interview

Once your child has finished, they will be accompanied back to the Waiting Room. It will then be your chance to engage in a conversation with the team, where they will address any inquiries you may have and outline the subsequent actions to be taken in the investigation.

Following this, you will have another chance to communicate with the advocate if desired and finalize any suggested referrals to services, such as counseling or a medical examination. The team will devise a plan and proceed with their investigation, while our advocate will maintain regular contact with you in the coming weeks and throughout the investigation process to offer any additional support or referrals that you may require.



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