Where to start

There is no “right” path to get into the field. If you are interested in building a career as a child forensic interviewer, please contact the child advocacy center or Multi-disciplinary Center/Team in your local area. A directory of these agencies can be found at www.cattacenter.org/mdic-t.html

Resources

California Network of Child Advocacy Centers
Ms. Jan Dunn, Statewide Coordinator
(530) 889-2192
calmdic@comcast.net

California Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance Center(s)
www.cattacenter.org/mdic-t.html
(707) 284-9547

National Children’s Alliance
http://www.nca-online.org/
(800) 239-9950

Western Regional Children’s Advocacy Center
http://www.nca-online.org/wrcac/index.html

This brochure is created and disseminated by The Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance Center(s), which are funded by the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention and the Children’s Section of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement and Victim Services Division.

IN AMERICA EVERY . . .

11 Seconds
a child is reported abused or neglected

40 Seconds
a child is missing or abducted

17 Minutes
a baby dies

2 Hours
a child is killed by firearms

2 Hours
a child is a homicide victim

4 Hours
a child commits suicide

24 Hours
4 children die from child abuse

24 Hours
13,700 children are abused and neglected

24 Hours
over 2000 children are missing or abducted

24 Hours
4 children die from child abuse

13,700 children are abused and neglected

24 Hours
over 2000 children are missing or abducted

24 Hours
4 children die from child abuse

13,700 children are abused and neglected

Be a Child Forensic Interviewer

Sea un Entrevistador Forenso de Niños
What does a Child Forensic Interviewer do?

A child forensic interviewer facilitates truth finding by collecting evidence in the form of victim or witness statements. Utilizing a variety of interviewing techniques that are age appropriate, the child forensic interviewer has a responsibility to elicit information in ways that will help ensure a forensically sound process that may result in a prosecution.

Where does a Child Forensic Interviewer work?

Child forensic interviewers are essential components of Children’s Advocacy Centers. Many of these centers are also known as Multi-Disciplinary Interview Centers/Teams (MDIC/Ts). Designed to reduce trauma to child abuse victims and to improve the investigation of suspected child maltreatment, these centers/teams bring together law enforcement, district attorneys, social workers, victim advocates, medical and mental health personnel as well as other professionals to conduct A SINGLE forensic interview of an abused child. The teams meet regularly to discuss and make decisions regarding the investigation, treatment of the victim and the prosecution of the perpetrator.

With a state-wide effort to establish Multi-Disciplinary Interview Centers/Teams comes the increasing need for qualified child forensic interviewers, especially bilingual interviewers.

Build a Career as a Child Forensic Interviewer

What you already have:

- A commitment to help children and their families
- Academic training on developmental stages of children and age appropriate functions
- Academic training and/or experience of working with traumatized children
- Knowledge and/or experience of family interaction and dynamics

What you will need:

- Objectivity
- Ability to work in teams
- Genuine enjoyment around children
- Commitment to on-going education
- Personal confidence
- Sense of humor

As a Child Forensic Interviewer, you will:

- Assist child abuse investigations
- Prevent future brutality against children
- Receive on-going training and support
- Develop expertise in a specialized field
- Build a safer community

More on Child Advocacy Centers

The Child Advocacy Centers and Multi-Disciplinary Teams represent a growing trend to incorporate law enforcement into child protection systems. Introduced in the late 1980s, Children’s Advocacy Centers (CAC) were designed to alleviate many of the inherent conflicts in the traditional child protection system.

The Need for Spanish Speaking Child Forensic Interviewers

In California,

- 48% of children age 0 -5 are Hispanic or Latino
- 44% of children age 0-17 are Hispanic or Latino
- 32% of children age 5 to 17 speak Spanish at home
- In some counties up to 80% of children under age 14 are Hispanic or Latino

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau, California Census 2000
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