

# PROTECT CHILDREN



*Be a*  
**Child Forensic  
Interviewer**



*Sea un*  
**Entrevistador  
Forenso de Niños**

## IN AMERICA EVERY ...



### 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](http://www.cattacenter.org/mdic-t.html)

### Resources

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

California Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance Center(s)  
[www.cattacenter.org/mdic-t.html](http://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>

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# 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

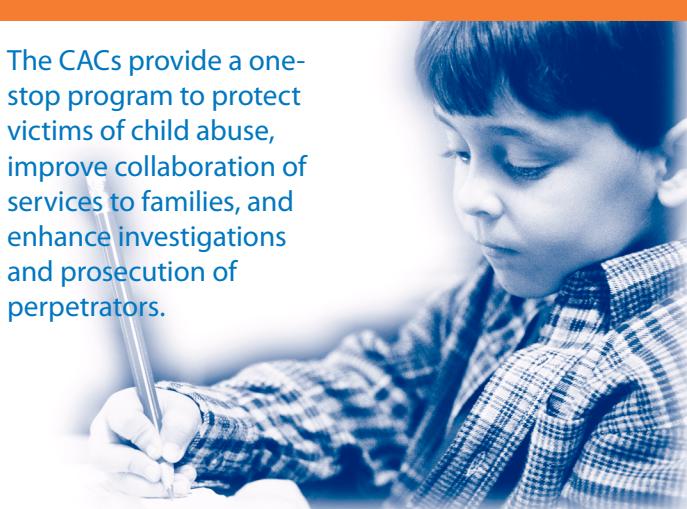
## As a Child Forensic Interviewer, you will:

- 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 CACs provide a one-stop program to protect victims of child abuse, improve collaboration of services to families, and enhance investigations and prosecution of perpetrators.



It is generally agreed that the multi-disciplinary approach of child abuse investigation results in

- More effective and thorough investigations
- Shorter caseworker response times
- Increased evidentiary corroboration of a victim's statements
- Decreased stress for child victims
- More perpetrator confessions
- More criminal prosecutions and guilty pleas
- Children less likely to experience repeat abuse

## The Need for Spanish Speaking Child Forensic Interviewers

### In California,

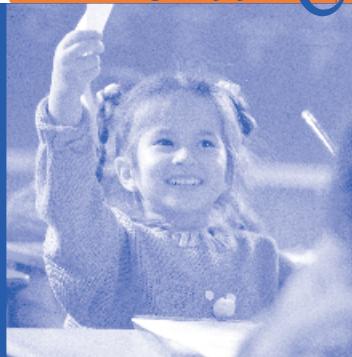
- 48% of children age 0 -5 are Hispanic or Latino
- 44% of children age 0-17 are Hispanic or Latino
- 32% of children age 5 to 17 speak Spanish at home
- In some counties up to 80% of children under age 14 are Hispanic or Latino

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



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