

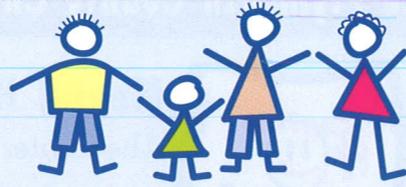
## Mission Statement:

The Plymouth County Children's Advocacy Center is an interagency, multi-disciplinary partnership dedicated to minimizing trauma to children and families when concerns of abuse arise.

The Center coordinates investigations and assessments with clinical and legal competence in an atmosphere that is safe and respectful of each family's culture. The Center collaborates in training and research efforts to prevent child abuse in our community.

## How to Report Child Abuse:

If you suspect any case involving child sexual or physical abuse and neglect, report it immediately to your local police department by calling 911, and by calling the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families Hotline at 800-792-5200.



## Who does the Plymouth County Children's Advocacy Center serve?

- 1 Each year about 450 children are involved in child abuse cases throughout Plymouth County.
- 2 Child abuse affects every racial, cultural, and economic group throughout Plymouth County.
- 3 PCCAC serves children between the ages of three and eighteen who are reporting allegations of sexual abuse, physical abuse or neglect.
- 4 Children are referred to the Center by calls from local and/or state police, DCF, schools, & the community.
- 5 The Center provides assistance to non-offending family members including: case management, victim witness services, and referrals to our network of treatment providers for crisis counseling and support groups.



## CONTACT

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Brockton, MA 02301

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Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

## SUPPORT

The PCCAC depends on BAMSI, foundation grants, government and individual private support. Tax deductible donations can be made through BAMSI to the Children's Advocacy Center.

## PARTNERING AGENCIES

The office of  
Plymouth County District Attorney  
Timothy J. Cruz

508-584-8120



[www.mass.gov/da/plymouth](http://www.mass.gov/da/plymouth)

508-580-8700



[www.bamsi.org](http://www.bamsi.org)

BAMSI (Brockton Area Multi-Services, Inc.) is a state wide non-profit organization dedicated to bringing people and services together. Through a wide range of programs and services BAMSI serves individuals and families to improve their quality of life and sense of self worth.

## Plymouth County Children's Advocacy Center



A Partnership between  
the office of  
Plymouth County  
District Attorney  
Timothy J. Cruz  
& BAMSI

## About the Plymouth County Children's Advocacy Center

The Plymouth County Children's Advocacy Center (PCCAC) offers a comprehensive approach to serving child victims and their non-offending family members. The Center coordinates a multi-disciplinary team response in a child-friendly environment that promotes safety, well-being, and physical health. The PCCAC carries out its goals by:

- ◆ Offering services for children and their non-offending family members including forensic interviewing, advocacy, and mental health referrals;
- ◆ Providing a multi-disciplinary response to child abuse investigations;
- ◆ Offering professional training and community outreach.

Children in Plymouth County between the ages of three and eighteen, who are the victims of abuse or severe neglect receive services that are developmentally and culturally customized to meet each child's individual needs.

## Services Provided by the Plymouth County Children's Advocacy Center

### Child-Friendly Facility

The PCCAC is located in a family-friendly Victorian home. The house is designed to make children feel comfortable when they are meeting with team members.

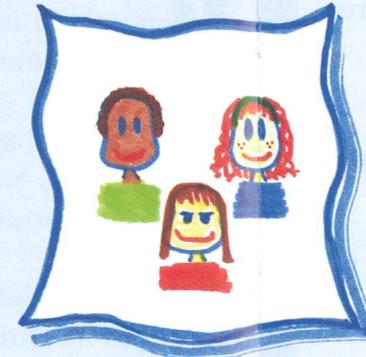


### Multi-Disciplinary Team Investigation

A team of professionals collaborate on each family's case including: an Assistant District Attorney, a Police Investigator, a Victim Witness Advocate and at times a Child Protection Worker.

### Mental Health Referrals

The Center provides specialized counseling referrals and outreach to child victims and their non-offending family members to various agencies throughout the community.



### Culturally Sensitive Services

All PCCAC services are customized to meet each family's cultural needs. Multilingual services will be available in Cape Verdean, Spanish, sign language, and other languages as needed.

### Child Advocates and Supportive Services for Families

The Center provides extensive services to children and their families, referrals to mental health services, domestic violence centers, and rape crisis centers. Victim Witness Advocates provide investigation updates, support, and court accompaniment.



### Forensic Interviews

Specially trained Child forensic Interviewers ask children about the abuse they have experienced while team members observe on closed-circuit TV. All child interviews are video-taped. The goal is to reduce trauma to children by limiting the amount of times they are interviewed.



### Medical Examinations

If needed, a specialized pediatric nurse can conduct an on-site child-sensitive, non-invasive sexual abuse exam to collect evidence and safeguard children's health.