



Mission Statement

The Arizona Child and Family Advocacy Network supports the establishment, sustainability and improvement of child and family advocacy centers throughout Arizona.

Vision Statement

We will have success when a coordinated multidisciplinary response to victims of child abuse, sexual assault and family violence is the standard throughout Arizona.

OUR ORGANIZATION

Arizona Child and Family Advocacy Network (ACFAN) is a state-wide membership organization of advocacy centers throughout Arizona helping communities respond to reports of child abuse, sexual assault and family violence. ACFAN provides support and leadership to optimize the success of each advocacy center and training for professionals to assure a coordinated response. ACFAN was formed in 1999 and at that time there were 5 advocacy centers in Arizona and one emerging center. Today, eighteen advocacy centers serve families throughout Arizona. Six of these centers are accredited by the [National Children's Alliance](#) (NCA) and nine are associate members. In 2003 ACFAN recognized the need to become a 501c3. Today ACFAN is a 501c3 membership organization in good standing with the Arizona Corporation Commission (#86-0953031).

Current program efforts include an annual Summit to provide Director-level training on legal issues and administrative topics affecting advocacy centers. An ongoing relationship with the AZ Children's Justice Task Force has provided 21 training events throughout the state on [topics](#) involving child abuse investigation. Emerging centers are mentored through ACFAN oversight. Directors report that the opportunity to network, learn and share is one of the greatest advantages of the Chapter.

The ACFAN Outreach Coordinator works with rural communities to create and maintain multidisciplinary teams of well trained professionals and assists them to establish advocacy centers in their communities.

All member centers are committed to a multi-disciplinary response to reports of child abuse, sexual assault and family violence. ACFAN is an Accredited member of the [National Children's Alliance](#) and is the recognized Chapter of the State of Arizona.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

ADVOCACY CENTERS are victim-focused, facility-based programs in which representatives from many disciplines work together to conduct interviews and make team decisions on cases. Advocacy center models are proven and effective (Legal Outcomes for Children Who Have Been Sexually Abused: The Impact of Child Abuse Assessment Center Evaluations: Joa, Edelson, Child Maltreatment, Vol 9, No. 3 August 2004) bringing together trained professionals to investigate and provide medical and mental healthcare as well as support to victims of crime, while holding offenders accountable through the court system. Advocacy center locations are victim-friendly and designed to create a sense of safety and security.

- Advocacy centers associated with NCA undergo an accreditation process that follows a regularly updated set of 10 standards established by the NCA board of directors that ensure effective, efficient and consistent delivery of services. Once accredited, advocacy centers then localize the standards to meet the unique needs of individual communities. The accreditation process ensures that centers adhere to rigorous standards known to be effective in helping victims heal from the affects of abuse. Advocacy centers in Arizona generally include:
 - Forensic Interviewing services
 - Forensic medical evaluations
 - Victim Advocacy and Support
 - Specialized mental health services
 - Community education and outreach

*In 2009, Arizona's Advocacy Centers served over 9,000
victims of abuse.
1,256 Forensic medical evaluations were performed*

*There is a need to further educate local communities of the resources offered by accredited
Advocacy Centers and the positive impact a victim-focused approach to
abuse intervention has on victims and their families. Contact the Arizona Child and Family
Advocacy Center for more information.*

CONTACTS: Kathleen McLaughlin, Coordinator
Kathy@acfan.net
928-458-0117