

Multidisciplinary Team Members

CPS Investigator (Goal: to PROTECT children and ASSIST families)

- Conducts background (Child Protective Services) check, for prior history with agency/system.
- Investigates to determine if a child experienced abuse or neglect per the jurisdiction's statutes. (interviews child victims, NOC, siblings, and child witnesses)
- Activates any and all relevant multidisciplinary team members to facilitate the investigation (e.g. law enforcement).
- Ensures that all relevant children are protected and safe from harm. Safety determinations must be made immediately.
- Petitions Family Court for emergency custody or change of placement if all relevant children are not protected in their home environment, develops court reports.
- Develops a safety plan and/or finds alternative placements for all relevant children as needed.
- Assesses the family for risk and for needed services (completes full family assessment documentation) & provides interventions and then evaluation of family's progress toward goals.
- Submits a finding of substantiated or unsubstantiated within timeframes set by the jurisdiction.
- Coordinates services (serves as Case Manager), offered by other community agencies/arranges for medical examination and/or psychological evaluations.
- Testifies in court proceedings when necessary.

CPS Supervisor

- Supervises (directs and offers advice) to the case workers and investigators in their unit.
- Provides advice on an as-needed basis, and will intervene or re-direct if they become concerned about how a case is handled.
- Provides educational materials (i.e. CAC model) as needed, to assist in training staff.

Law Enforcement (Children's Detective) (Goal: Ensure safety of child, Gather evidence of crime, Assist in prosecution of offender)

- Conducts the investigation in response to allegations of child abuse or neglect reported to the state child abuse and neglect hotline, or directly to the police.
- Conducts background check on suspect(s) or family members, as needed, or when requested.
- Has the authority and access to question the following people involved in the case:
 - Alleged victims
 - Caregivers
 - Suspects
 - Potential witnesses

■ Responsibilities:

1. Investigates to determine if a crime has occurred.
2. Assists with emergency removal of children/protects CPS during home visit
3. Gathers (& documents) any corroborating evidence to facilitate the investigation.
4. Examines crime scene.
5. Questions and arrests relevant suspects (if sufficient evidence exists).
6. Seeks warrants/charges from the prosecutor if appropriate.
7. Activates any and all relevant multidisciplinary team members necessary to facilitate the investigation (e.g. Child Protection Services, Child Advocacy Center).
8. Produces final documentation of findings (Police Reports) in case work
9. Testifies in court when necessary to present evidence.

Family Court Representative (Goal: Protect child, assist family, shape behavior)

- Has the authority to conduct searches for court documents (e.g., divorce decrees, custody records, etc.) relating to families, and to provide to other MDT members such information for MDT investigations.
- Assists in the filing and processing of Protective Orders (Adult or Child), when warranted and/or requested.
- Assists in the handling of juvenile offenders, producing recommendations for detention, residential care, services, or treatment, and provision of resources to child and family.
- Assists in out-of-home placement situations (foster care, etc.), serves as case-manager prior to and between court hearings.

Family Advocate (Goal: Serve family & MDT as part of Trauma-sensitive investigation & treatment per CAC model)

- Assists with coordinating the multidisciplinary team's investigation of child abuse and neglect.
- Gathers information from MDT members regarding the allegations of child abuse and neglect, to best facilitate forensic interview and recommendations that follow (i.e. leads MDT pre- and post-forensic interview meetings).
- Gathers demographic and contact information from family members.
- Informs the non-offending caregivers about the role of the Child Advocacy Center and orients them to the forensic interview process.
- Conducts an interview with the non-offending caregiver (NOC) to provide resources and support related to alleged abuse.
- Produces summary report of NOC interview and recommendations/resources offered, and conducts follow up with family for at least 6 months to a year, pending trial.

Forensic Interviewer (Goal: Serve as MDT member, providing trauma-informed, detailed and recorded fact-finding interview of child victims)

- Conducts forensic interviews at the Child Advocacy Center in your jurisdiction.
- Assists with coordinating the multidisciplinary team's investigation of child abuse and neglect.
- Convenes and leads periodic Case Review meetings on CAC cases.
- Provides DVD recording, and summary report to select MDT members, for trial preparation.
- Testifies in court when necessary.

Medical/Mental Health Provider (Goal: Promote health and healing)

- Serves as a member of the multi-disciplinary team, assisting in the investigation of child abuse.
- Conducts SAFECARE medical examinations or psychological evaluations.
- Produces SAFECARE report or psychological evaluation, documenting any medical/psychological evidentiary findings.
- Treat issues related to CA/N
- Provides expert testimony in court.

Prosecuting Attorney (Goal: seek justice, remove perpetrator from society, punish/rehabilitate perpetrator, deterrence from future crimes)

- Facilitates obtaining search warrants.
- Receives all investigation materials from the child abuse detective and decides whether or not to file charges, determining appropriate charges and best means of charging.
- Joins MDT, and participates in forensic interview and case review, once fully involved in the case.
- Leads all prosecution of Child Advocacy Center cases in your jurisdiction.
- Negotiates bail.
- Prepares witnesses for court.
- Oversees all trial preparations (filing of charges, grand jury, witness statements, etc.), trial proceedings and sentencing recommendations (victim impact statements, etc.).