

**Kendall County Children's
Advocacy Center**

**Located inside the
Kendall County Health
Department Building**

**811 West John Street
Yorkville, Illinois 60560**

**Phone: 630-553-4157
Fax: 630-553-4204**



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Contact Information:

Emergency: 911
**Kendall County State's
Attorney's Office: (630) 553-4157**
Mutual Ground: (630) 897-8383
**Edwards Hospital
Care Center: (630) 528-5014**
DCFS: (630) 844-8400

Local Police Departments

Aurora Police Dept.: (630) 256-5000
Joliet Police Dept.: (815) 724-3100
Kendall County Sheriff: (630) 553-7500
Montgomery Police Dept.: (630) 897-8707
Minooka Police Dept.: (815) 467-2151
Oswego Police Dept.: (630) 551-7300
Plainfield Police Dept.: (815) 436-6544
Plano Police Dept.: (630) 552-3122
Sandwich Police Dept.: (815) 786-7261
Yorkville Police Dept.: (630) 553-4340

Kendall County Website:

www.co.kendall.il.us

**Kendall County
Children's Advocacy
Center**

**A Program of the
Kendall County State's
Attorney's Office**

*We will walk
through this together!*



**Eric C. Weis
Kendall County
State's Attorney**

Our Mission

The mission of the Kendall County Children's Advocacy Center is to ensure coordination and cooperation among all agencies involved in child sexual abuse cases or severe physical abuse cases involving children so as to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of those agencies; to minimize the stress created for the child and his or her family by the investigatory and judicial process; and to ensure that more effective treatment is provided for the child and his or her family.

Overview

The Kendall County Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) was officially established in January 2007 by State's Attorney Eric Weis, to protect children who have been sexually and/or physically abused. Children come to the CAC when a report has been made to either local law enforcement or the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) that a child has been sexually or physically abused. Our CAC conducts a victim-sensitive interview of the child in a child-friendly environment. The interview is conducted by a skilled forensic interviewer who ensures the interview of the child is conducted in a neutral, non-suggestive atmosphere. This helps to ensure the integrity of the child's statement and assists the State's Attorney's Office in prosecuting dangerous child sexual predators and/or physical abusers. Our CAC is centrally located in Kendall County for easy access for all county residents.

How it Works

Once a child tells a parent, friend, teacher or someone they trust (referred to as an "outcry") that they have been abused by someone, the CAC goes to work. The process starts when DCFS or local law enforcement is contacted that a child has been physically or sexually abused. Law enforcement and DCFS will take an initial report and gather basic information about the alleged sexual or physical abuse. It is important to note that the child is not interviewed by DCFS or law enforcement at that time. The child will be interviewed later at the CAC by our trained forensic interviewer. Please remember that the child should not be interviewed by anyone other than a forensic interviewer at our CAC, unless an emergency situation arises or for medical purposes.

After the initial report is taken, an appointment is made for the child to be interviewed by one of our trained forensic interviewers at the CAC. Once at the CAC, the child and the family are met by one of our advocates who take the child and family to a private playroom/waiting room until the interview is ready to begin.

The parent(s)/guardian are interviewed first in the interview room and the child is left with our advocate in the playroom area. The parent(s)/guardian are asked questions to see what information they can give to assist in the interview of their child and sign releases allowing us to talk to the child and record the interview. The parent(s)/guardian leave the interview room and the child is brought into the child-friendly interview room which has an overall warm and friendly atmosphere.

How it Works cont.

A video and audio recording of the interview is made to minimize the child having to be interviewed numerous times. The recording may also be used for court purposes. The interview is observed by members of law enforcement, DCFS, and the State's Attorney's Office through a one-way mirror.

The parent(s)/guardian are not permitted to observe the interview or be present with the child during the interview. This helps to ensure the integrity of the interview and to prevent claims that the child was coached or intimidated into making a statement about the abuse.

Once the interview is completed, the child is taken back to the playroom with the advocate. Law enforcement, DCFS, and the State's Attorney's Office discuss the interview of the child. The different investigative options are also reviewed. The parent(s)/guardian are then advised of the next step in the process. They are also advised of the availability of services for the child and family. No services are provided directly or indirectly by the CAC or the Kendall County State's Attorney's Office.

Our goal at the CAC is to quickly and effectively investigate any and all allegations of sexual or physical abuse of a child. We are committed to seeing that justice is done for the victims and the People of Kendall County.



Eric C. Weis

State's Attorney for Kendall County