

Resources for Child Abuse/Sexual Abuse

Alliance for Children – Tarrant County

908 Southland Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76104

817.335.7172

www.allianceforchildren.org

Alliance for Children provides the following services:

Forensic Interview - A forensic interview occurs when a child participates in a structured interview conducted by a member of Alliance for Children's Child Forensic Interview Team. These team members are experts in speaking with traumatized children. Tarrant County has five Forensic Interviewers, who have received in-depth training regarding talking to children when allegations of abuse have been made. It is important that you do not tell a child what to say, but it is appropriate to encourage telling the truth and answer the questions asked. The Forensic Interviewer is specially trained to talk with children in a one-on-one setting and in a child-friendly way while trying to make them feel comfortable during the process. Alliance for Children makes every effort to schedule the child's interview at a time that is convenient for the parent and the investigators involved. Through this coordination, the investigators are available to answer questions regarding the investigation and what will happen next. The Forensic Interviewer does not make investigative case decisions, but may make referrals for additional services or resources for the family. These resources could include case management or counseling services through the Family Advocate Program. For more information about the Forensic Interview program, contact the Director of Program Services at ldula@allianceforchildren.org.

Clinical Counseling - Alliance for Children offers both individual and group counseling free of charge to families referred to the counseling program.

It is not unusual for a child to experience nightmares, flashbacks, sadness, anxiety, anger, poor grades, fearfulness, and thoughts of drug/alcohol use & self-harm after a traumatic event has occurred. Although these can be normal reactions to abuse, it is important for children to learn healthy ways of coping in order to decrease these symptoms. Even if a child does not exhibit any symptoms, it can be extremely beneficial for him or her to speak with a trained professional to process what happened in order to make sure the child understands and feels safe expressing his or her feelings. With the support of a protective caregiver and effective treatment, a child can recover without long-term effects. Effective treatment can include individual and/or group counseling. Sometimes children participate in both simultaneously because of the benefits they each provide.

Alliance for Children uses registered therapy dogs as an integral part of the childrens' group counseling experience. The dogs visit twice a month during group counseling to lessen the stress and anxiety of the children. The therapy dogs make scheduled lobby visits, assist in court preparation, individual counseling and when needed, in forensic interviews.

Alliance for Children offers free group counseling in both Spanish and English to protective parents of children who have received services through Alliance for Children. The parent counseling curriculum closely follows the children's counseling and empowers parents to play a significant role in their children's healing. For more information about our Clinical Counseling Department, please contact the Director of Clinical Services at dldavls@allianceforchildren.org.

Family Advocacy - The Family Advocate Program at Alliance for Children help families with children that are confirmed victims of either physical or sexual abuse that can benefit from additional case management and/or counseling services, but do not qualify for continued services from Child Protective Services.

The Family Advocate Program offers free case management services to all families referred. Also offered free of charge is group counseling for confirmed child victims of sexual abuse and their protective parents who are residents of Tarrant County. Families are referred to the program by at least one of their partner agencies, which include law enforcement, CPS, Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, and Cook's Children Medical Center. Once referred to the program, a family completes an initial intake determining their initial needs. For more information about the Family Advocate Program, please contact the Director of Program Services at ldula@allianceforchildren.org.

Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County (also serves Wise County)

1854 Cain Drive, Lewisville, TX 75077
972.317.2818
www.cacdc.org/

Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County is a child-friendly place where kids can find help after incidents of sexual abuse. Help comes in the form of Justice as CACDC works with 34 Denton County Law Enforcement agencies, Juvenile Probation, Denton County District Attorney's Office, Child Protective Services, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and Healing through free counseling services from on-staff therapists and interns who serve kids and their non-offending family members. CACDC is also proactive through their Community Prevention Education, provided to any adult in Denton County for free. Programs are similar to those listed for Tarrant County's Alliance for Children.

Denton County Friends of the Family

Denton Outreach Office
4845 S I-35 E, Suite 200, Corinth, TX 76210
940.387.5131
24 Hour Crisis Line: 940.382.7273 or 800.572.4031
www.dcfof.org

Denton County Friends of the Family is dedicated to providing compassionate, comprehensive services to those impacted by rape, sexual abuse, and domestic violence, while partnering with the community to promote safety, healing, and prevention.

The Parenting Center

Fort Worth Main office
2928 West Fifth Street
Fort Worth, TX 76107
817.332.6348 (For families outside of Tarrant County, call 800.369.4230
www.theparentingcenter.org

The Parenting Center offers counseling, parent and family life education, parenting advice, assistance in services with mental/behavioral health problems, etc.