

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence Family and Child Advocacy

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CCADV Data

- Last year Child and Family Advocates served over 2,400 children 1,200 of those children were sheltered
- Child and Family Advocates recorded over 9,000 service contacts with children per year which include counseling, safety planning, referrals, advocacy with outside systems, and support groups
- Child and Family Advocates made 2,844 referrals to outside agencies such as behavioral health, birth to three, medical services, public school enrollment



Child and Family Advocate

Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree or eight years (8) years experience in related field. A combination of an Associate's Degree plus four (4) years of experience will be considered.
- Comprehensive working knowledge of the dynamics of domestic violence.
- Commitment to working with domestic violence victims and their children to develop a plan for their safety and preserve their right to self-determination.
- Comprehensive knowledge child development, including the impact of trauma on child witnesses of domestic violence
- Ability to gather, consolidate and present client information through interviews
- Knowledge of community resources
- Ability to work effectively with both traditional and non-traditional systems

What is a Child and Family Advocate?

All Child and Family Advocates must contractually:

- Be certified as a domestic violence counselor, per CGS 52-146k, before providing direct services to clients. All individuals currently working in CCADV's Domestic Violence Member Organizations are certified
- Maintain their certification by receiving not less than six hours of in-service training annually in issues related to working with victims of domestic violence
- Attend a minimum of two Child and Family Advocate meetings to strategize and share information with other member organization child advocates

Confidentiality

Child and Family Advocates must adhere to the laws set forth in CGS 52-146k stating:

- Domestic violence counselor or a sexual assault counselor shall not disclose any confidential communications made to such counselor at any time by a victim in any civil or criminal case or proceeding or in any legislative or administrative proceeding unless the victim making the confidential communications waives the privilege
- Provided under no circumstances shall the location of the domestic violence agency or rape crisis center or the identity of the domestic violence counselor or sexual assault counselor be disclosed in any civil or criminal proceeding.

What is a Child and Family Advocate?

A Child and Family Advocate is responsible for providing support and advocacy services to residential and non-residential children. This includes but is not limited to:

- Crisis Intervention
- Intake
- Comprehensive needs assessment
- Individual and family service plan
- Information and referral
- Safety planning with parent/ caregiver and children
- Individual supportive counseling
- Supportive contacts
- Activity group or therapeutic play groups
- Psycho-educational group
- Advocacy with outside systems
- Risk assessment
- Case management
- Trauma informed services, including strengths-based and resiliency applications
- Information about domestic violence in an age appropriate manner

CCADV Standards Regarding Child and Family Advocacy

CCADV's 18 member programs are held to 81 standards which ensure that member organizations provide high quality services to their clients and promote best practices.

CCADV designed specific standards regarding children, youth and families to ensure that all CCADV-affiliated member organizations are providing age-appropriate, youth-centered advocacy services which are trauma informed and client centered.

Child and Family Advocates

Child and Family Advocate works with children of all ages as well as their families while in CCADV's safe house or in community settings. The Advocates work individually with the children and youth as well as hold various support groups utilizing evidence based curriculums.



Child and Family Advocates

Child and Family Advocates also work with parents and provide them with education and help identify their strengths and needs. Through their work they assess parenting skills and competencies and offer support such as individual counseling and support groups.



Child and Family Advocate Curriculums

Safe Dates

- An evidence based curriculum developed for grades 6-12 designed to help teens recognize the difference between caring, supportive relationships and controlling, manipulative, or abusive dating relationships

Mom's Empowerment and Kid's Club

- Kids Club is a preventive intervention program that targets children's knowledge about family violence; their attitudes and beliefs about families and family violence; their emotional adjustment; and their social behavior in the small group.
- Mom's Empowerment is a parenting program that provides support to mothers by empowering them to discuss the impact of the violence on their child's development; to build parenting competence; to provide a safe place to discuss parenting fears and worries; and to build connections for the mother in the context of a supportive group.

Funding for Child and Family Advocates

Child and Family Advocates are funded by an Office of Policy and Management grant with a total award of \$11,525 per domestic violence program. Domestic violence programs must rely strictly on fundraising and donations to compensate the remainder of a Child and Family advocates salary.



CCADV's Initiatives

CCADV believes in every family and individual child's resiliency. While the effects of exposure to violence vary and are many, our member programs and their staff work delicately and carefully with the victims that are often forgotten, the children.

Current CCADV Projects and Initiatives

- Through the Eyes of the Child Project
- Improving Children's Spaces

CCADV trainings for outside agencies working with children effected by domestic violence:

- Help Me Grow Breakfasts
- OEC Home Visitor Training
- GAL Training through the Children's Law Center of CT

Current Trainings for Child and Family Advocates and Individuals working with Children:

- Voices In Power
- Safe Dates
- Day of Advocacy Staples
- Sesame Street (English and Spanish)