**HOW DOES THE CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER MODEL WORK?**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- The role of local law enforcement is grounded in public safety.
- If not criminal in nature, law enforcement may not take action.
- **Immediate Response**

**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES**
- The role of CPS is to ensure that a child’s home is safe.
- If the family/caretaker is not the alleged abuser, CPS may not take action.
- **Priority Assigned (24-72 hours)**

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**Child is brought to children’s advocacy center**

**Joint Investigation Begins**
- Forensic Interview
- Evidence Collected
- Photos Taken
- Witness Interview
- Medical Treatment and Exam

**CAC coordinates Case Review with all team members, including law enforcement, prosecution, Child Protective Services, the forensic interviewer, a mental health provider, a medical professional, and a family advocate.**

**Case presented to District Attorney**
- Suspect Charged or Case Refused

**Child & family receive mental health services—Family advocate works with family to assess critical resources and provide support as the case moves through the justice system**

**Child Removed from Home, or Case Opened for Services, or Case Closed**