

RECOGNIZE & REPORT 2025

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF PARIS

Mission: To promote hope, healing and justice to
child victims of crime in Lamar and Red River
Counties.



Speakers

Multidisciplinary Team Members (MDT)

Greg Kee- Children's Advocacy Center of Paris

Sara Estrada- Texas Department of Family and
Protective Services

David Whitaker-Paris Police Department

Ben Kaminar- Lamar County D.A. office

Agenda

- **SB 571- Greg Kee**
- **Expectations for Educators- Sara Estrada**
- **What Happens when you report Online or By Phone**
- **Investigation Process- David Whitaker**
- **Court Process- Ben Kaminar**
- **Children's Advocacy Center- Greg Kee**

GREG KEE

SB 571 REQUIREMENT TO REPORT ABUSE TO DFPS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TFC §§261.001 AND 261.101

- If a professional has *reasonable* cause to believe that a child has been abused as defined by TFC §261.001, the professional *shall make* a report to the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) or law enforcement *no later than 24 hours* after the professional first has reasonable cause to believe that the child has been abused or neglected.
- The definition of abuse is amended to include “sexual conduct harmful to a child’s mental, emotional, or physical welfare, including conduct that constitutes an improper relationship between an educator and a student under Texas Penal Code §21.12.”
- The definition of a law enforcement agency includes *the Texas Department of Public Safety; the police department of a municipality; the sheriff’s office of a county; or a constable’s office of a county*, and does not include a police department of an educational entity.
- Of note, the definition of child abuse under current law also includes “encouraging the child to engage in sexual conduct”.

SARA ESTRADA

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- Mandated Reporter: Texas Family Code Sec 261.101
Persons Required to Report, Time to Report
- Reporter Information
- Report what you know, let proper authorities ask the questions

1-800-252-5400

DFPS Texas Abuse Hotline

When do I call the Texas Abuse Hotline instead of using this website?

- Serious injuries
- Any injury to a child 5 years or younger
- Immediate need for medical treatment (including suicidal thoughts)
- Sexual abuse where the abuser has or will have access to the victim within the next 24 hours
- Children age five and under are alone or are likely to be left alone within the next 24 hours
- Anytime you believe your situation requires action in less than 24 hours



<https://www.txabusehotline.org/>

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I REPORT?

- Statewide Intake
- P1– Immediate/24 Hours
- P2– 72 Hours
- Investigation Process/Referral for Services
- Alternative Response– 120 Hours

DAVID WHITAKER

INVESTIGATION PROCESS

- When do YOU make a report? You know or have suspicion of abuse.
- When you are presented with information causing reason to believe abuse is occurring
 - DO NOT question the victim or solicit details
 - Notify school law enforcement officer ASAP
 - Call local law enforcement to respond
 - DO NOT contact the parent/guardian (may be perpetrator)
 - Make one report collectively (law enforcement, teacher, counselor, principal all listed on one report)

Texas Penal Code 21.12 Improper Relationship between Student/Educator are illegal regardless of age and is a felony offense.

What will happen after you report

- Law Enforcement (local police or county law enforcement) will contact CPS.
- Law Enforcement (local police or county law enforcement) will contact the District Attorney's Office.
- A Forensic Interview will be done by a qualified interviewer at CAC.
- DFPS will assess the home for safety and living conditions to determine response.
- Law Enforcement, DFPS, and District Attorney's Office will conduct a complete and thorough investigation.
- Decide to present arrest or search warrant(s)
- Schedule Sexual Assault Exam
- Polygraph Exam when applicable
- All facts and information delivered to the District Attorney's Office for consideration.



BEN KAMINAR

COURT PROCESS



GREG KEE

CAC'S ROLE IN THE PROCESS

Without CACs



With CACs



ABOUT CAC OF PARIS

The Children's Advocacy Center of Paris (CAC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving child abuse victims and their non-offending family members in Lamar and Red River Counties. We provide a safe environment where children can disclose abuse and receive the support they need. Every child's voice matters.

Our community is working together with the CAC to bring hope to children during the darkest moments of their lives. The CAC Model uses a multidisciplinary team of professionals who work together as a team on these difficult cases.

The CAC is the hub that coordinates all aspects of a child's individual case, from investigation and prosecution, to medical evaluations and mental health. And with formalized partnerships with Child Protective Services, law enforcement, and prosecution, CACs are the one place where these partners can bring a victim where children are the central focus.



SERVICES PROVIDED AT CAC OF PARIS

1

**Family
Advocacy**

2

**Forensic
Interview**

3

**Specialized
Medical
Exam**

4

Therapy

1

FAMILY ADVOCACY

- **Explanation of the investigation process**
- **Connect families with resources for help and healing**
- **Navigating legal proceedings**
- **Accessing counseling services**

2

FORENSIC INTERVIEW

- **Interviewer with specialized training**
- **Gathering accurate and legally defensible information about potential abuse or crime**
- **Interviews are recorded and often observed by a multidisciplinary team of investigators from a separate room**
- **Reduced trauma by “only telling the story once”**



3

SPECIALIZED MEDICAL EXAM

- There may not be physical signs of sexual abuse, many children and families are reassured knowing that their bodies are okay and healthy.
- What's discovered in the exam helps the investigative team determine what happened to the child and how to move forward with the case.

THERAPY

- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention (CFTSI)
- Problematic Sexual Behavior Therapy (PSBT)
- Play Therapy

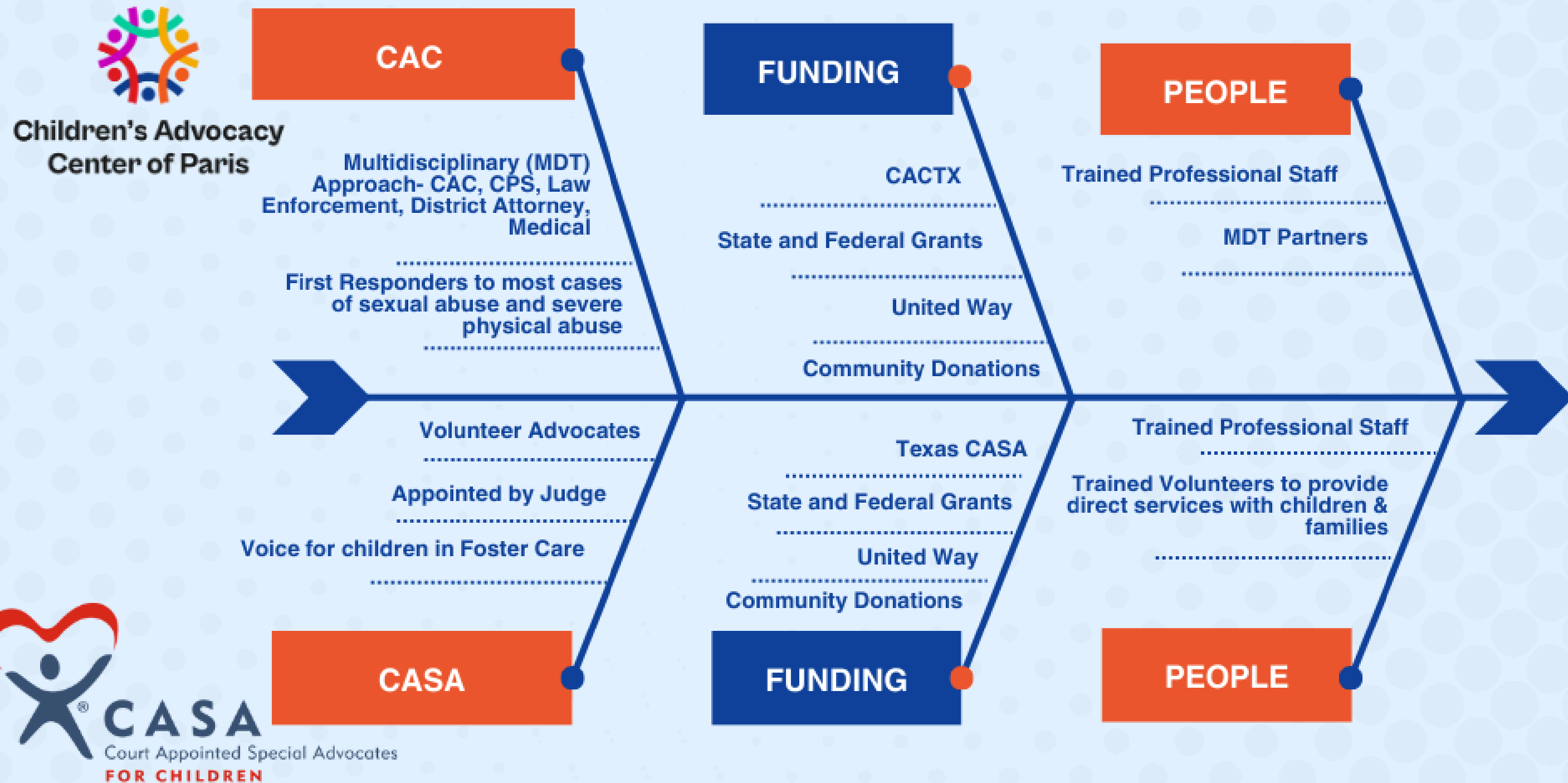


Support during court appearances





CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN LAMAR COUNTY AND RED RIVER COUNTY



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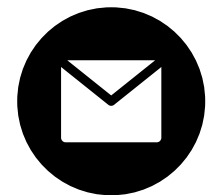
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**Handouts and
Additional Resources**