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.

**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.

**Immediate Response**

**Priority Assigned (24-72 hours)**

- 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