

Children's Advocacy Center

Guadalupe County



...mending injured heads, hearts and souls...



www.gccac.net

424 N. River St. • Seguin, Texas 78155
(830) 303-4760 • Fax (830) 303-4742

Child Abuse: An Epidemic Here at Home

Like most communities across the nation, Guadalupe County is faced with a terrible reality. Many of our children are sexually, emotionally, and physically abused.

Child victims must navigate a legal system which was designed for adults, one that is insensitive to the needs of children, and one that often lacks coordination between law enforcement, Child Protective Services, prosecutors, and medical and mental health professionals. As a result, these children are commonly revictimized by unnecessary, repetitive interviews at different locations, lack of communication between agencies, incomplete investigations, and a lack of immediate and long term medical and therapeutic treatment.



The Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center is here to change all that.

THE GUADALUPE COUNTY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

...is an innovative approach to improve the treatment of child victims of sexual, severe physical and emotional abuse in Guadalupe County. Our program offers a coordinated, multidisciplinary team approach involving representatives from law enforcement, the district and county attorneys' offices, and Child Protective Services, as well as medical and mental health professionals--all working as a team on each child's case. The team's goal is to minimize each child's trauma, provide immediate and long-term treatment and services, and to ensure proper investigation of cases.

Who does the Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center serve?

- Child victims of sexual, severe physical, or emotional abuse in Guadalupe County
- Child witnesses to domestic violence and felony offenses
- Non-offending family members
- Community professionals in the fields of law enforcement, law, medicine, Child Protective Services, mental health, education and social work





Services Provided by the Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center

Forensic Interview

Each child's interview is conducted in a room specially designed to assure the child's comfort, as well as proper evidence collection. The interviews are conducted by a professional forensic interviewer with specific training to interview child victims. Children are referred to the Advocacy Center for an interview by law enforcement or Child Protective Services investigators.

Coordinated Investigations

The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is a group of professionals working together to investigate allegations of child abuse, while ensuring that the best interests of the child victims are being served. This team approach involves the vital resources of law enforcement, Child Protective Services, the prosecutors' offices, and medical and mental health professionals. Each child's case is staffed by the MDT. Both Advocacy Center staff and MDT members strive to learn the facts in each case, whether that results in prosecuting the guilty OR exonerating the innocent.

Therapeutic Services

The Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center is committed to providing each victim with needed treatment by encouraging professional counseling. The Advocacy Center offers free counseling to victims from our own therapy staff, or by referring clients to other area counselors.

Medical Services

Necessary medical exams are coordinated through the Advocacy Center and our partnership with Guadalupe Valley Hospital. Sexual assault examinations are conducted by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) at Guadalupe Valley Hospital in Seguin. The Advocacy Center will also provide volunteers to accompany victims and their families to the hospital.

Focused on the Child

How to Report Child Abuse

If you suspect any case involving child sexual, physical, emotional abuse or neglect, you must report it immediately to your local law enforcement agency or the

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at

1-800-252-5400

The Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center relies upon the generosity of individuals, foundations and businesses who want to make a real difference in the lives of abused children. We are proud of our affiliation with the Guadalupe County United Way and Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc.

If you are moved by the lost innocence of a child brutalized by abuse, would you consider supporting the Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center with a financial commitment?

To mail a check, please fill out the coupon below and mail your gift to:

Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center

424 N. River Street

Seguin, Texas 78155

We accept credit card gifts through our website, located at

www.gccac.net

I want to help mend injured heads, hearts and souls of abused children in Guadalupe County!

My gift is enclosed (please circle):

\$1,000 (membership in **The Children's Table** donor society)

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home telephone _____ Business telephone _____

Email address _____

Please send me more information about:

- Gifts of appreciated securities
- Including GCCAC in my estate plan
- Volunteer program

Please mail your gift and coupon to:

GCCAC
424 N. River Street
Seguin, Texas 78155