



Advanced Victim Advocacy Training

Announcement and Registration

August 1 & 2

9:00 to 4:30 Each Day
Lunch Break 12:00 to 1:00

OUHSC – Bird Library
1000 Stanton L Young Blvd
Oklahoma City

Advanced Victim Advocacy Training

The Advanced Victim Advocacy Training will be an opportunity for participants to gain a better understanding of the roles and relationships of the Victim Advocate and the Multidisciplinary Team, and improve communication and collaboration that ultimately benefits the child victims and their caregivers.

The Victim Advocate component **is often the least understood service provided by a children's advocacy center (CAC)** in spite of the model's fundamental philosophy of advocating for child abuse victims. Forensic interviewing, therapy and medical exams are often considered the core functions of a child abuse investigation, but research has indicated that caregiver's satisfaction with their experiences at a CAC are significantly and positively related to their perception of support and helpfulness. Communication of information is of "considerable importance" in a caregiver's assessment of their experiences at the CAC (Bonach, Mabry, & Potts-Henry, 2010).

Roles and Relationships: The Victim Advocate as a member of the MDT

Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) members are not always able to articulate the role of the victim advocate and often overlook the critical role of the Victim Advocate as a team member. The under-utilization of the advocate can impact the exchange of critical information. The Advanced Victim Advocacy training will consider how CACs/MDT's can maximize the victim advocacy component to not only improve communication among team members but also to insure that caregivers are sufficiently informed throughout the investigation.

CAC Protocols and Victim Advocacy

NCA Accreditation review of CAC policies and procedures have consistently revealed a lack of documentation regarding the victim advocacy component. Victim Advocates also indicate that their knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities is vague and lacks structure. Many express surprise that their job functions should be captured in the agency protocols and procedures. Training participants will be asked to consider their own agency protocols in light of the requirements of the NCA Victim Advocacy Standards.

Screening and Referrals: Victim Advocates and Family Violence

In spite of what we know about the co-occurrence of child abuse and domestic violence, very few CAC's consistently screen for other forms of family violence. Training participants will explore the available screening tools and consider the adoption of a protocol for screening for family violence and providing appropriate referrals when necessary.

Challenges to effective Victim Advocacy

Prior to the training, participants will complete a survey which will ask them to identify any challenges to developing and maintaining an effective victim advocacy component. Survey results will be discussed and strategies will be offered.

Victim Advocacy Best Practices

Training outcomes will include an overview of Best Practices for Victim Advocacy Programs.

Who Should Attend?

The Advanced Victim Advocacy Training focuses on helping Victim Advocates who are working within a CAC approach to better understanding their role and the variety of relationships they encounter. Attendees will broaden their knowledge of conducting effective screening and referral practices, as well as recognizing and overcoming challenges in working with families. Attendees will further their understanding of the roles of the various members of the MDT and receive tips to improve communication and collaboration with team members.

Length

This training is 2 full days.

Cost: \$200

Advanced Victim Advocacy Training Registration

Name:

Address:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Child Advocacy Center:

Registration Deadline: July 19

Registration & Payment by Postal Service

No Purchase Orders

No Refunds

CACO

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