

CHILD ADVOCATES



Child advocates are available at the Cece Yara Child Advocacy Center (CYFCAC) to provide protection and support to children and their families dealing with the trauma and stigma associated with child sexual abuse. Our Child Advocates work side by side with Child Protective Services, medical staff, law enforcement agents, the Judiciary and other members of our Multi-disciplinary Team to ensure that the investigative process is not an extension of the trauma that families have already experienced.

Information that is given throughout the investigative process may seem confusing, complicated and overwhelming. Our Child Advocates' primary objective is to ensure that children and families have all the support, protection, information, and resources they need to embark on the road to recovery. Services offered at CYFCAC include:

- Providing a free 24-hour helpline for children experiencing sexual abuse or who are at risk, or have suffered abuse with a listening ear, counselling or referral services;

- Providing children who have suffered abuse with legal, medical and specialised psychosocial support, free of charge, and providing safe, neutral, child friendly and supportive environments for the children we serve;
- Providing a multi-disciplinary team approach to assist with the investigation, intervention and prosecution of child abuse;
- Providing an extensive outreach program to schools and the community which includes a variety of prevention services, education on child abuse dynamics and information on healthy child rearing practices;
- Empowering adults in the community to protect children aged 0-18 years old from sexual abuse by teaching them how to prevent and recognise child sexual abuse and how to react responsibly;
- Strengthening the existing support structures and Institutions for child protection services through advocacy and collaboration.
- Referrals to counselling and additional support services.
- Accompanying children and their families through medical exam, police interview, and court proceedings as needed

Remember the Child Advocates are committed to your recovery and they are there to support you fully.

Please feel free to contact a Child Advocate here at the CYF Child Advocacy Centre for more information about the services they can provide. This is a difficult time that no family is prepared for. You are not in this alone; our Child Advocates are here for you always.