



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard Re-Accredited by National Children's Alliance**  
*Melbourne, Fla.*—The National Children's Alliance (NCA) Board of Directors has approved the re-accreditation application for the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard (CACB). In the NCA announcement, it was noted that there were no recommendations for improvement, further validating the hard work and commitment to the community by the Advocacy Center staff and partners. NCA provides national accreditation to children's advocacy centers, which are community-based facilities providing a best practice solution to caring for victims of severe child abuse.

Being a fully accredited member of the National Children's Alliance means the CACB has met or exceeded standards in 10 comprehensive service areas: Multidisciplinary Team, Cultural Competency and Diversity, Forensic Interviews, Victim Support and Advocacy, Medical Evaluation, Mental Health, Case Review, Case Tracking, Organizational Capacity, and Child-focused Setting. The accreditation status of advocacy centers is reviewed every five years.

Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard program strengths noted by the NCA reviewers were: (1) the long-term commitment by the CACB's fiscal intermediary, Wuesthoff Health Services, Inc., (2) the Friends of the CACB, which has a plan for long-term financial sustainability for the organization, (3) experienced professionals including Advocacy Center mental health staff, multidisciplinary team members and Operations Advisory Board members, and (4) a comprehensive onsite medical component via the Child Protection Team.

For 20 years, the children's advocacy center model has been a beacon of hope for abused children throughout the nation—ensuring that children are not further victimized by the systems intended to protect them. What makes the children's advocacy center model so effective is a unique multidisciplinary community response to severe child abuse that enables law enforcement, prosecutors, child protective services, and the medical and mental health professions to work together as a collaborative team to investigate and prosecute cases of child abuse.

Established in 1996, the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Wuesthoff Health Services. Advocacy Center partners are involved in the most difficult cases in Brevard County, including cases of child sexual or severe physical abuse, and neglect. CACB is a multi-agency collaboration of the Child Protection Team, the Florida Department of Children and Families, both of which are onsite at the Advocacy Center; Brevard County Sheriff's Office and municipal law enforcement agencies, the Office of the State Attorney and community mental health professionals. The CACB Clinical Intervention Program provides immediate mental health crisis counseling for child victims and their non-offending family members. Major onsite services provided by the Child Protection Team include medical exams, medical consultations, and specialized and forensic interviews.

For additional information about the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard, or to schedule a tour, call 259-1883, or visit our website at [www.cacbrevard.org](http://www.cacbrevard.org).

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