



Acronyms & Terminology List

In the children’s advocacy field, acronyms are frequently used to simplify communication about organizations, programs, and policies focused on the well-being of children. This list helps professionals and stakeholders quickly understand and navigate some of the key elements of the field. This is not an all-inclusive list.

Acronym/Term	Definition
AF-CBT	Alternatives for Families: A Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
AG	Attorney General
ADA	Assistant District Attorney
AP	Assistant Prosecutor
APSAC	American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
CA	Commonwealth Attorney
CAC	Children's Advocacy Center / Child Advocacy Center. Note that not every CAC is called a CAC. Some are Children's Justice Centers, Family Advocacy Centers, or have a name unique to that agency.
CALiO™	Child Abuse Library Online
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate
CCTC	Children’s Crisis Treatment Center
CFTSI	Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention
CGRC	Child Guidance Resource Center
CJC	Children’s Justice Center (*See note above next to “CAC”)
CPP	Child-Parent Psychotherapy
CPS	Child Protective Services. Note that this may have another name and acronym depending on your state (e.g., DHS, DHHS, CYS, DFPS, etc.)
CSAM	Child Sexual Abuse Material
CSEC	Commercially Sexually Exploited Children
DA	District Attorney
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
DOJ	Department of Justice
DV(S)	Domestic Violence (Specialist)
EBPs	Evidence-Based Practices
EMDR	Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing
FI	Forensic Interviewer
FNE	Forensic Nurse Examiner
Fox Valley (NCJTC and FVTC)	National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College
ICAC	Internet Crimes Against Children
IPV	Interpersonal Violence



Acronym/Term	Definition
Linkage Agreement	A written agreement between the CAC and another agency providing core CAC services (medical, mental health, advocacy).
LE	Law Enforcement
MDT	Multidisciplinary Team
MH	Mental Health
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding. The protocol under which your MDT operates. Sometimes referred to as an Interagency Agreement. This could also be an agreement between agencies to provide services, products, etc. like a linkage agreement.
MRCAC	Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center
NCA	National Children's Alliance
NCAC	National Children's Advocacy Center
NCARC	Native Child Advocacy Resource Center
NCJTC	National Criminal Justice Training Center
NCMEC	National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
NCTSN	The National Child Traumatic Stress Network
NNCTC	National Native Children's Trauma Center
NRCAC	Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center
OJJDP	Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
OMS	Outcome Measurement System. CACs use this tool to measure outcomes.
P-SANE	Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
PCIT	Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
PSB	Problematic Sexual Behavior
RCAC	Regional Children's Advocacy Center
RFP	Request For Proposal
SANE	Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
SART	Sexual Assault Response Team
SCR	State Central Registry
SRCAC	Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center
STS	Secondary Traumatic Stress
SVU	Special Victims Unit



Acronym/Term	Definition
TMH	Telemental Health
TF-CBT	Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
VOCA	Victims of Crime Act
VOCAA	Victims of Child Abuse Act. Federal legislation related to CACs and the multidisciplinary response to child abuse.
VA	Victim Advocate
VT	Vicarious Trauma
WRCAC	Western Regional Children’s Advocacy Center
YPSB	Youth with Problematic Sexual Behavior
ZAP	Zero Abuse Project

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