

IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF ABUSE:

Always report any suspicions of child abuse

You may save a child from further harm if you report your suspicions. If you have questions or you want to report suspicions of child abuse, call the Department of Children and Families Child-At-Risk Hotline at 800.792.5200 or your local police department.

IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE TO YOU:

Remain calm and thank the child for telling someone

The child has undergone a potentially traumatic experience and could be frightened by your response. Be sure to thank the child for being honest and courageous enough to tell someone.

Be sure to acknowledge that it is not the child's fault

Child abuse is NEVER the fault of the victim. The child may feel ashamed and embarrassed or feel that they allowed the abuse to happen. Explain to the child that it is not their fault. They are not to blame and they are not in trouble.

Encourage the child to talk openly

Children who experience abuse may be worried that you won't believe them or that you may not want to hear about their experience. Encourage the child to talk freely with you, or an adult they trust, about what happened without pressuring them for answers.

*1 in 5 children will
be sexually solicited
while online.*



Providing Hope and Healing
for Abused Children

PARTNER AGENCIES

The Cape & Islands District Attorney

Department of Children & Families

Department of Public Health

Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement

Contact Children's Cove for more information:
508.375.0410 • info@childrenscove.org



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Established in 1997, Children's Cove is a nationally accredited and child-friendly Children's Advocacy Center. We are staffed and equipped to provide comprehensive and coordinated multidisciplinary services to victims of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, witness to domestic violence and commercial sexual exploitation.

The multidisciplinary services are provided in cooperation with our partner agencies. These include The Cape & Islands District Attorney, the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, as well as local and state law enforcement.

As pioneers of this innovative and collaborative approach, Children's Cove provides a single location for child and youth victims to tell their story; and for both the victims and non-offending caregivers to receive support and start the healing process.



FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

- A non-leading, trauma-informed, developmentally and culturally appropriate interview that is conducted in a comfortable and neutral location
- Obtains an impartial account of the child's abuse without causing further trauma to the child
- Children's Cove provides interviews to children, adolescents, and adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities

MEDICAL SERVICES

- Children's Cove is staffed by an experienced Nurse Practitioner specializing in pediatric and adolescent sexual abuse and forensic evidence collection
- On-site wellness exams are available to all victims of suspected victims of sexual or physical abuse, and acute assault exams available for children under 12
- All medical services are provided in collaboration with the Department of Public Health PediSANE Program

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Provides information and referrals regarding trauma-informed mental health treatment for the child and impacted non-offending caregivers
- Provides on-site, short-term, trauma informed clinical services for children served
- Works as a liaison between the family and the service provider as the family begins the healing process

ADVOCACY FOR ALL

All services provided by Children's Cove are free of charge and meet the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA). Interpreters are provided in-person or over the phone for anyone who accesses our services.

ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- Coordinates referrals and information with community resources to assist victims with community-based organizations to provide natural supports and tangible needs
- Advocates for and supports the family throughout the criminal justice process and protective matters
- Provides information regarding the Massachusetts Bill of Victims' Rights and assists in the completion of the Victim Compensation application

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Provides professional training to partner agencies and youth-serving organizations to better prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child abuse
- Provides community awareness and prevention education to community members, faith organizations and service providers to improve the Cape & Islands response to child abuse

*90% of child victims are abused
by someone they know and trust.*