

# Help Us Help Them Heal

## Support the Child Advocacy Center

The generosity of caring individuals, businesses, civic organizations and churches makes the BRACAC's mission to stop sexual abuse and help children heal from sexual abuse and exploitation a reality. Gifts such as cash, in-kind products or professional services and planned giving are very important and are often what support the Center's work when limited state and federal funding are not available. For more information on how you or your organization can help, please call the center at (270) 783-4357 or visit [www.bracac.org](http://www.bracac.org).

## Volunteer Opportunities

The center relies on active community support by individuals and groups who want to help make a difference in their community. Volunteers are needed to provide support to children and families while visiting the Center, as well as assist with administrative activities and special events. For more information on how YOU can put your energy and talents to work for the Center, please call the Center at (270) 783-4357.

## I Care About Kids

Did you know you can help a victim of child sexual abuse by requesting an "I Care About Kids" license plate the next time you update the tags on your automobile? Or make a quick contribution when doing your taxes?

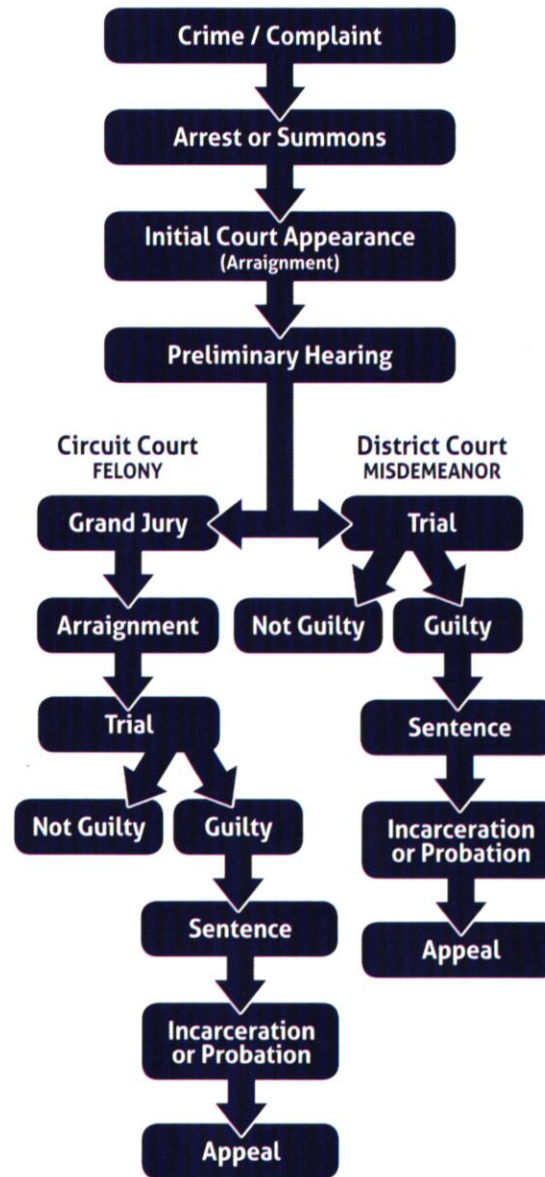


Administered by the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Board, the Child Victim's Trust Fund (CVTF) receives revenue from proceeds of the "I Care About Kids" special license plates, the Kentucky Income Tax Refund Check-Off and private donations. Children's Advocacy Centers such as the BRACAC receive those funds to help support medical examinations for children living in their service region. For more information, please call the BRACAC at (270) 783-4357 or visit <http://ag.ky.gov/criminal/victims/cvtf/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center**  
 103 East 12th Street • Bowling Green, KY 42101  
 Phone: 270-783-4357 • Fax: 270-783-8865  
[www.bracac.org](http://www.bracac.org)  
 Jennifer Bryant, Director

*The Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center (BRACAC) provides all services on a first come basis and at no expense to a child's family. Child sexual abuse medical examinations are made available, in part, by a grant from the Child Victims' Trust Fund. This brochure and all services provided to children and families is made possible, in part, through funding from the Cabinet for Health & Family Services, the Kentucky Justice Cabinet/VOCA, and through contributions made by many individuals, civic organizations, businesses, and churches in our regional community. All support helps the BRACAC help kids heal. Thank You!*

## VICTIMS HAVE RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE CRIMINAL PROCESS



The Office of the Attorney General does not discriminate on the basis of protected classes: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, disability, veteran status, or genetic information in employment or in the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities.

Helping. Healing.  
One Child at a Time.



Serving children and families in these counties:  
 Allen • Barren • Butler • Edmonson • Hart  
 Logan • Metcalfe • Monroe • Simpson • Warren

## Helping. Healing. One Child at a Time.



## Mission and Vision

*It is the mission of the Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center to reduce trauma to child abuse victims by providing one-safe, child-friendly location where teams of professionals work together to pursue justice and offer treatment.*

A non-profit 501(c)3 agency since 1998, the BRACAC is an Accredited Member of the National Children's Alliance and a Full Member of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky. This mission is possible only through the collaboration efforts of the various professionals that must intervene when sexual abuse, human trafficking, and/or exploitation of a child is disclosed or suspected. The Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center or "BRACAC" starts with the idea that no one agency or professional can adequately respond and meet the needs of a child victim. Rather, it takes the expertise of a core multidisciplinary team of professionals – law enforcement, child protection services, prosecutors, physicians, therapists and professional advocates – all working together to provide children and their non-offending family members or caregivers with quality services and support they need.

**Located in Bowling Green/Warren County, the BRACAC is a regional Children's Advocacy Center that serves Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson and Warren Counties. All services are provided on a first-come basis and at no expense to a child's family.**

The trauma and impact of sexual abuse can be devastating to a child. But by working together at the BRACAC, children and families receive quality services in a trauma-informed environment to stop abuse, begin the healing process and enhance the prosecution of offenders of this horrific crime against children.

### Child Focused Environment

The Child Advocacy Center facility has been designed to make children and families feel comfortable and safe when meeting with investigators and receiving vital services. Offenders – alleged or otherwise – are not permitted at the Center.

### Victim Advocacy & Support

The BRACAC's Child Advocates coordinate and provide services and support to children and families at the Center and until the child's case is resolved by the assigned MDT, prosecution efforts or both. Advocates also help connect children and families with other resources in the community and provide information and assistance with Victim Compensation benefits, court preparation and support and more.

### Forensic Interviews

The BRACAC is equipped with two interview rooms that are designed to make children feel comfortable to talk about what has happened to them. The Center's Forensic Interviewers are trained through nationally recognized programs on forensic interviewing of children and work closely with investigative professionals to conduct interviews to minimize multiple interviews and additional trauma. Forensic interviews are provided for children when sexual abuse, human trafficking, and/or exploitation is disclosed or suspected. Interviews are also provided for children who have experienced severe physical abuse and/or been a witness to abuse or other violence.

### Medical Examinations

The BRACAC's medical unit includes a child-friendly examination room and small laboratory. Physicians with specialized training and experience in pediatric medicine and the diagnosis and treatment of sexual abuse conduct child-sensitive, noninvasive medical examinations to ensure a child is healthy and without injury. The examination also collects and documents forensic evidence, if present. The recently added Cortexflo takes high quality photos and video for physical and sexual abuse cases. Encrypted photos may also be used in peer review.

### Mental Health Services

Connecting children and their non-offending caregivers with quality mental health services is critical to a child's ability to heal after victimization. All BRACAC therapists are trained and experienced in the assessment and evidence based treatment of trauma. Referrals for additional assessment and/or treatment offsite are coordinated through formal linkage agreements with mental health professionals and agencies who uphold the same trauma informed standard of care. Through partnerships with the UK Center on Trauma and Children our therapists are able to provide cutting edge, evidence based trauma treatment.

### Community Awareness & Prevention

The BRACAC is committed to supporting the ongoing professional development of its staff and MDT partner professionals on the response, investigation, treatment and prosecution of child sexual abuse and exploitation. In addition, the BRACAC provides various training such as The Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children prevention training to the general public to help raise awareness and teach adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals, civic organization, schools, churches, daycares, after school programs, and sports programs. Contact us at 270-783-4357 to learn more. Speakers Bureau call 270-783-4357 to schedule.



**Children's Advocacy  
Centers of Kentucky**



NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE  
ACCREDITED  
MEMBER