

Child Abuse Services

Child Abuse Services (CAS) is a multidisciplinary, specialized service that assists children from birth to 17 years, who have been abused or neglected, in order to enhance their bio-psycho-social health and well-being. CAS has two streams - a medical stream and a psychosocial stream. These are described in more detail below:

Psychosocial Stream

The psychosocial stream assesses the impact of abuse and neglect on the referred child, and provides therapeutic intervention to address emotional, behavioural and relational challenges associated with the abuse and neglect.

Referrals are accepted from:

- Alberta Children's Hospital internal referrals
- Children's Services assessors/case workers
- Law Enforcement
- Community Physicians
- School Personnel
- Parent/self-referral

Terms of Reference:

"Severe and complex" refers to physical abuse that caused injuries or involved use of objects or necessitated involvement of law enforcement and medical professionals; or neglect in which there was chronic deprivation of basic physical needs over a sustained period of time.

Inclusion Criteria:

- The referred child has experienced sexual abuse, and/or severe and complex physical abuse and/or severe and complex neglect, AND
- The referred child is exhibiting emotional distress and/or behavioural challenges that are felt to be associated with the abuse/neglect, AND
- The referred child is under 18 years of age at the time of referral.
- Children between 6 to 12 years of age who are exhibiting problematic sexual behaviour for which clinical assessment or treatment is needed.

Exclusion Criteria:

- Referral for an assessment or treatment of a youth, 13 years of age or older, who has committed a sexual offence.
- Referral for an assessment or evaluation of parental capacity to meet the needs of the referred child.

- The referred child continues to experience ongoing maltreatment (abuse, neglect, domestic violence, or caregiver substance abuse).
- Referrals for investigation, validation or review of allegations of abuse.
- Referrals to obtain disclosure of abuse from the referred child.
- Investigation by Law Enforcement and/or Children's Services has determined that the child abuse allegations are unfounded/unsubstantiated.

Contact Information: Calgary and Area Child Advocacy Centre: Child Abuse Services, Child Development Services, Central Access and Referral Management

Phone: 403-428-5320 Fax: 403-428-5379

Medical Stream

Referrals to the Child Abuse Services - Medical Stream, for a child who may have experienced physical or sexual abuse, are triaged to determine if a medical assessment of the child is warranted.

Referrals are accepted from:

- Physicians
- Children's Services Assessors/Case Workers
- Law Enforcement

Inclusion Criteria:

- The child has disclosed vaginal or anal penetration.
- The child has disclosed physical abuse, extreme neglect and/or discipline-causing injuries.
- Children with physical injuries where the physician has concerns about the reported mechanism for the injury.
- Children with possible health risks related to the alleged offender's medical history and/or involvement with drugs or unprotected sexual activity with multiple partners.
- Children with a suspicion of sexual or physical abuse but the child is developmentally unable to provide a verbal disclosure.

Exclusion Criteria:

- The alleged sexual assault has occurred within 96 hours.
- Past consensual intercourse with a partner that falls within the legal age guidelines.
- Disclosure is limited to fondling over clothes or sexual touching.

Contact Information: Child Abuse Service Medical Stream

Phone 403-428-5301 Fax: 403-428-5307