

As a community, we value children and families. Yet children in our community are being abused, used and hurt by adults and older youth. This abuse has devastating, long-term effects on children, their families, and the community.

Intervention by existing systems has been fragmented and in many cases ineffective and traumatic for the child victim.

The Children's Justice Center refocuses on the child's need for safety and brings diverse systems together in order to better serve the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Protecting children from abuse is everyone's responsibility. If you are aware of a child who is being abused or mistreated, please report the abuse to DCFS at 1-855-323-3237, or to your local law enforcement agency.



NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
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The Children's Justice Center receives partial funding through appropriation by the Utah State Legislature, administered by the Office of the Utah Attorney General, Utah County Government, and the National Children's Alliance. Funding for treatment facilitation and victim assistance is provided through V.O.C.A. grants administered through the Utah Office for Victims of Crime. Some funding for mental health treatment is also available through private donations and special grants of CDBG monies and from the cities of Orem and Provo.



315 South 100 East  
Provo, Utah 84606

“Where Small Voices  
can be Heard”

## Children's Justice Center

The Children's Justice Center is a homelike facility which serves children and families who are experiencing the crisis and chaos that comes with the disclosure of significant physical or sexual abuse of a child. The Center is designed to help children feel safe and comfortable so that they may begin to deal with the difficult and often frightening issues that surround abuse.

## Does Utah County Need The Children's Justice Center?

Each year more than 2,000 cases of child abuse and neglect in Utah County are reported to the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and local police. Nearly 1,200 of these referrals involve sexual or significant physical abuse. Many cases involve more than one victim. Many more cases of child physical and/or sexual abuse are not yet reported to public agencies and our children suffer in silence.

We are not immune to child abuse or its devastating effects. The rate of child sexual abuse in Utah County is comparable to national statistics. More than one out of four girls are sexually abused by age 18. We also know that more than one in six boys are sexually abused, but these cases may be under-reported.

## Making a Difference for Children and Families

Traditionally, investigation of child sexual abuse required multiple interviews of the child victim by police, social services, medical personnel, psychologists and attorneys. Each interview occurred at a different place and rarely in a setting that was familiar or comfortable for the child. The Children's Justice Center is a place for the child with a comforting home-like environment, where the necessary interviews can occur in an atmosphere that is non-threatening to the child.

A comprehensive interview that addresses the concerns of all the agencies investigating the case will be conducted by one team member. This team member, the clinical coordinator, and the victim assistance coordinator are the consistent contacts between the child and the Center. The focus and function of the Children's Justice Center is to reduce the trauma of the child abuse investigation and to help the child feel safe to reveal the truth. The Children's Justice Center provides or coordinates:

- Investigation of child abuse by trained professionals
- Comprehensive child interview process
- Mental health treatment
- Medical services
- Victim Assistance support services
- Emotional support for child and family
- Monitoring of case progress
- Community education

## Help from the Community

Money has been appropriated by the Utah State Legislature for minimal operational funding, but it is the citizens of our community who have furnished the facility for the Children's Justice Center and fund ongoing support services for the child and family. Community volunteers are also greatly needed to help provide emotional support and other resources for victims and families.

The Children's Justice Center is a unique public and private partnership in behalf of children. While government agencies provide necessary investigation services, the citizens of Utah County can make the critical difference which will help children to heal. The Center is an opportunity to provide the precious gift of caring to our children and an investment in the future of our community for all of us.

If you wish to make a difference for abused children in our community, please send your tax deductible contribution to:

Utah County Children's Justice Center  
315 South 100 East  
Provo, Utah 84606  
(801) 851-8554

If you would like to volunteer your services, please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to explain to you the many opportunities available for you to help.