

**North-Central of Wisconsin
Child Advocacy Center**

705 S. 24th Ave., Suite 400
Wausau, WI 54401
(715) 848-8600

Directions

From the north: Take Hwy. 51/I-39 south to exit 192. Turn right onto Hwy. 52. Turn right onto 28th Ave., then left on Stewart Ave., and right on 24th Ave.

From the south: Take Hwy. 51/I-39 north to exit 191B for Sherman Street and merge onto 24th Ave.

From the east: Take Hwy. 29 west to Hwy. 51/I-39 north. Take exit 191B for Sherman Street and merge onto 24th Ave.

From the west: Take Hwy. 29 east, which becomes Hwy. 52. Turn right onto 28th Ave., then left on Stewart Ave., then right on 24th Ave.

Important telephone numbers

Marathon County Victim/Witness Program:
(715) 261-1111

Marshfield Clinic – Wausau Center Child
Abuse/Neglect Clinic: (715) 847-3140

The Women's Community, Inc.: (715) 842-7323



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chw.org/cac

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin is the nation's largest
health care provider of child advocacy centers.

North-Central Wisconsin Child Advocacy Center

Abuse is a very scary
topic for children,
parents and other family
members. Fortunately,
Children's Hospital of
Wisconsin's North-Central
Child Advocacy Center
is here to help you and
your child through this
hard time. This brochure
will help explain what
happens when you visit
the center.



Kids deserve the best.

What is the Child Advocacy Center?

The Child Advocacy Center is a safe place for kids who may have been abused. The center brings together a team of specially trained professionals who evaluate and investigate cases of child abuse and help children and their families.

The Child Advocacy Center is a place for your child to feel safe and supported. The center's child-friendly waiting room and interview room have been designed to help you and your child feel comfortable and safe.

What happens when I arrive at the Child Advocacy Center?

When you come to the Child Advocacy Center you will be welcomed by a team member who will take time to get to know you and your child. Other parts of your child's visit may include:

- A video-recorded interview about the suspected abuse, and/or
- A medical evaluation.

Who will I meet with at the Child Advocacy Center?

A team of professionals works with you and your child during and after your visit to the Child Advocacy Center. All team members have special training in working with children and families in crisis. Members of this team include:

- Medical providers.
- Social workers.
- Police officers.
- Victim advocates and other specialists to help a child and the family before, during and after his or her visit.

What happens during the interview with my child?

During the interview your child will speak with a person trained to speak with kids about abuse. This interview is recorded so that your child may only have to speak about the abuse once. To help the child from becoming distracted, parents are not allowed in the interview room. When the interview is finished, the recording will be used as a part of the child abuse investigation.

What happens during medical evaluations?

If a medical exam is recommended, medical history is gathered, and a medical provider will perform a gentle head-to-toe check-up on your child to look for signs of abuse.

What happens after the interview or medical evaluation?

At the end of your appointment, you will meet with team members to discuss your child's appointment, get resources, ask questions and learn more about what will happen next.

How do I schedule an appointment?

Appointments are arranged by police officers, human service agencies and through referrals by other medical providers.

What do I need to bring with me?

It often is helpful to bring the following with you when you come to the Child Advocacy Center:

- Snacks and comfort items such as stuffed animals or other small toys.
- Medical insurance information, if you have medical insurance.
- A supportive adult to assist you and your child during the appointment.

The Child Advocacy Center has limited space available. If possible, we ask that you do not bring other children with you to the appointment unless requested.

Will I receive a bill for my child's appointment?

The Child Advocacy Center does not charge a fee for the interview. Most medical insurance companies will pay for all or a portion of these exams and any related lab tests. If you do not have medical insurance, a staff member will discuss options with you.

An important note for parents

During this difficult time, it is recommended that you do not ask your child questions about the abuse. If your child asks questions about the abuse, answer him or her in a simple way that he or she will understand.

For more information or guidance, call
North-Central of Wisconsin
Child Advocacy Center
at **(715) 848-8600**

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday