












The Difference Between Community & Systems-Based Programs & Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) & Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)

 <u>Community-Based Programs</u>	 <u>System-Based Programs</u>	 <u>CACs & CASAs</u>
<p>What's considered a Community-Based Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelters and Services • Crisis/Helplines <p>Non-governmental, community-rooted; often non-profits</p>	<p>What's considered a Systems-Based Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County/City Attorney Offices • Department of Justice Victim Services • Department of Corrections Victim Services <p>Governmental departments; integrated into criminal justice system</p>	<p>What's a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and what's a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA):</p> <p>Specialized non-profits (CACs) or judge-appointed volunteers (CASAs) deeply integrated with justice/welfare systems</p>
<p>Can provide comprehensive advocacy, crisis intervention services, 24hr access, emotional support, financial assistance, emergency shelter, transitional assistance, etc.</p>	<p>Can provide information and notification on criminal justice processes, emotional support, referrals, advocacy and accompaniment services, etc.</p>	<p>CACs: Forensic interviews, information/education, referrals (medical/mental health), ongoing advocacy, centralized services.</p> <p>CASAs: Court advocacy (child's best interests), independent investigation, resource facilitation, case monitoring, consistent presence.</p>
 <p>Specialize in specific areas (children, lgbtq+, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, dating violence, etc)</p>	 <p>Provide victim services and assistance to all crime victims, are not restricted by type of crime committed</p>	 <p>Provide child-centered, trauma-informed response and advocacy for abused/neglected children within the legal process</p>
<p>Can provide services to a victim whether victimization is reported or not</p>	<p>Cannot offer complete confidentiality the way local advocacy agencies can</p>	<p>Strict confidentiality for volunteers; information shared within multidisciplinary teams for coordinated response & prosecution.</p>
<p>No limitations on services or when services end</p> 	<p>Services are provided at specific junctures of the criminal justice process</p> 	<p>Services are specific and tied to the duration of the child's case within the legal or protective system</p> 
<p>May be funded through federal, state, or private foundations, as well as community support, such as donations and fundraising</p>	<p>Funding in systems-based programs ranges from grant funding to full time state and county-funded positions.</p>	<p>May be funded through federal, state, or private foundations, as well as community support, such as donations and fundraising</p>