

Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 2023

We, the undersigned agencies, by and through our supervisory heads and through our designated representatives, do agree to the following policy supporting the institution, concept and philosophy of the Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County.

We recognize that this collaborative approach, core to the child advocacy center model, has a well-documented record of improving outcomes for (1) child abuse cases in both the criminal and child protection systems; and (2) the lives of the children and families impacted by abuse.

Therefore, to better protect the children of Galveston County, the undersigned agencies have agreed to work collaboratively:

- Minimizing the revictimization of alleged abuse and neglect victims and nonoffending family members through the investigation, assessment, intervention, and prosecution processes.
- Maintaining a cooperative team approach to facilitate successful outcomes in the criminal justice and child protection systems through shared fact-finding and strong, collaborative case development.
- To develop, maintain and support through the Advocacy Center, an environment that emphasizes the best interests of children and that provides investigative and rehabilitative services.

It is expressly understood that each agency will work within its own department mandates and policies. Nothing contained in the investigative protocol or MOU supersedes the statutes, rules, regulations or policies of each individual agency.

All State and Federal confidentiality laws will be followed in connection with this agreement.

This agreement can be terminated by any party without cause by giving written notice to the other parties.

Signatories of this agreement include:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Advocacy Center for Children | DFPS CPI | DFPS SI |
| DFPS CPS | DFPS CCI | UTMB |
| UTMB Emergency Department | District Attorney | Resource and Crisis Center |
| Unbound Houston | Bayou Vista PD | Clear Lake Shores PD |
| Dickinson PD | Friendswood PD | Galveston County Sheriff |
| Galveston PD | Hitchcock PD | Jamaica Beach PD |
| Kemah PD | La Marque PD | League City PD |
| Santa Fe PD | Texas City PD | Tiki Island PD |
| UTMB PD | Galveston ISD PD | Hitchcock ISD PD |
| Santa Fe ISD PD | | |

Individual agency signatures are attached.

**Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County
Signature Page- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
2023**

NAME: _____

POSITION/TITLE: _____

AGENCY: _____

I have read and fully comprehend the attached Memorandum of Understanding for the Children's Advocacy Center program.

My signature below indicates that I hereby pledge my support to the continued development and operation of the Children's Advocacy Center in my community.

I further understand that the MOU, along with the multidisciplinary team's Working Protocols/Guidelines, must be reviewed and fully re-executed by all parties, at a minimum, every three years.

SIGNATURE: _____

Date