

Family Advocacy is Children's Advocacy

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Family Advocacy Center

Mission Statement for the FAC

"The Family Advocacy Center (FAC) provides a secure and healing environment for the investigation of cases involving child abuse and neglect by utilizing a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team to reduce further harm to children and other vulnerable victims, while honoring the cultural values and traditions of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community."

History of the SRPMIC FAC

- The concept arose in response to a multi-faceted initiative in the Community titled "Protecting the Community Children Project," in 2008, after a horrific tragedy, and a startling rise in suspected child abuse/neglect cases.
- The FAC received tribal funding in 2009 with its mission to protect
- Our FAC is one of 18 advocacy centers in Arizona, one of seven in Maricopa County, and only tribal advocacy center in Arizona; is an affiliate of the National Children's Alliance.
- Multidisciplinary team members who assist families during the investigative process include Police, Child Protective Services, Tribal Prosecutor's Office, Legal Services and Behavioral Health.
- Partner agencies: U.S. Attorney's Office, Honor Health, ChildHelp Children's Center of Arizona and Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Multi-disciplinary Team: Who and Why

Members of the Team

- The MDT is comprised of Salt River Police CAC, Child Protective Services, Tribal Prosecutor, Social Services, and includes collaboration with Community Legal Services, Behavioral Health and Education.
- All meet regularly to review cases.

Their Purpose

- Members bring to the table, their different expertise and resources so as to seek best outcomes for investigation and tribal support for victims and their families.
- Specific MDT may also meet on an emergency basis, for a SCAN (suspected child abuse or neglect) meeting in response to a report or referral.

Tribal Environment is Important

Example: the outdoor play area is tribally sensitive, to help the child/children feel more comfortable while at the FAC.

Non-CPS Staff who assist with children's care while at the FAC are mostly tribal members.



Children may be brought to the FAC for forensic interviews, first to this waiting room:

A child or children may be brought to the FAC by a relative, the SR Police, CPS investigator or a Social worker.

The child or children will be accompanied throughout their wait and departure by their escort or a FAC staff.

A sensitive, supportive and appropriate environment is provided throughout the visit.



“Lockdown” at the FAC (A secure facility)



When a child or children are brought to the FAC for any reason, only staff assigned there, or those involved in the case are allowed in the building.

This is done to protect the child and/or family privacy as well as the integrity of the investigation.

The FAC is a secured facility.

Forensic Interview (FI)

- Child victims and witnesses in cases involving child physical and sexual abuse, neglect, imperiling, drug endangerment, domestic violence, sexual assault and homicide may be interviewed for purposes of prosecution of crime(s), obtaining of proper services and referral.
- To reduce the need for further trauma created by multiple interviews, the forensic interview is sensitively conducted by a certified interviewer, and is recorded.
- The FI may occur before or after a medical examination at a partner agency, depending on the circumstances of a case.
- CONFIDENTIALITY is critical in order to maintain the integrity of an investigation as well as the privacy of a victim or witness.

Forensic Interview (FI) Room

A sensitive and quiet environment is provided throughout the forensic interview.

The interview room is purposely neutral but comfortable for a child.



Once the forensic interview is completed, the involved members of the MDT may de-brief on the matter.

Decisions are made by appropriate department as to further investigation and referral to the appropriate processes.

Case may be kept on the MDT meeting list until final referral to tribal resources or processes.

KEY: Collaboration, Coordination & Confidentiality



The SRPMIC Multi-disciplinary Team meeting table is purposely big.

Appropriate tribal departments come together to discuss investigations, and needed services for children and families. The work of finding resources for healing often begins at this table.

The SRPMIC Family Advocacy Center is a Tribal Commitment to Our Future.

“There is no resource more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than their children.”

Mississippi Band of Choctaw
Indians v. Holyfield, 490 U.S. 30.

