



Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County

The Mid-Month Memo

Vol. 3, Issue 1
August 19, 2013
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Primary Partner Agencies

COMCARE of Sedgwick County

Exploited and Missing Child Unit

KS Dept. for Children and Families
Wichita Regional Office

KU School of Medicine - Wichita

Office of the District Attorney, 18th
Judicial District, Sedgwick County

Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office

Via Christi Health

Wesley Medical Center

Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center

Wichita Police Department

~ To lead our community in eliminating the
suffering of abused children. ~

Keeping Children Safe When Parents Are Not Present

Many parents worry about their child's safety at school, home and around the neighborhood. Fortunately, child abductions are rare and most occur when children are taken by non-custodial parents. However, because children generally trust adults and caregivers, they can be lured into abusive or exploitative situations by those who intend to harm them. Here are some suggestions to help keep children safe:

- *When hiring babysitters, check references and use trained, licensed child care providers. Never leave children alone with friends or family members suspected to have previously abused children.*
- *When choosing a preschool, ask about safety policies and be sure to designate who may pick up your child.*
- *During early and middle childhood, a responsible adult should be available in the mornings to get children ready and off to school and to supervise them after school.*
- *Children nearing adolescence (11-12 years old) should not come home to an empty house unless they are exceptionally mature for their age. If alternate supervision is not available, parents should supervise children from a distance - set a time for the children to arrive home, have them check in with a neighbor or with a parent by phone, have strict expectations for activities in the home until a parent arrives, and limit the time alone to only a few hours at most.*
- *If an after-school program is used, inquire about the training of the staff. Assure there is a high staff-to-child ratio and that rooms and playgrounds are safe and supervised.*
- *Although children should be supervised by trusted adults at all times, it is still important to teach them to never get into a car or go with someone the parents have not authorized, even if a child knows that person. Tell them to run, yell and find a trusted adult in any situation where they feel threatened.*

Information from the American Academy of Pediatrics (www.aap.org) and the
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (www.missingkids.com)

Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County
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How You Can Help the CACSC - Ways to Make a Charitable Gift: #3

As a non-profit charitable organization, the CACSC depends on grants, government, foundation, corporate and individual support. We have reviewed cash donations and multiple year pledges and gifts. Giving appreciated stock or securities is a third way help a charitable organization. You eliminate all capital gain taxes and receive a charitable tax deduction based on your tax bracket and the average value of the stock on the day the securities are signed over to the non-profit organization. Because the stock may be of higher value than on the day it was purchased by the donor, the donor may actually "make money on this donation through his or her charitable deduction.

More on Jessica's Law and Prosecution Outcomes

Another recent example of how Jessica's Law is applied to Sedgwick County cases involves 29 year old cheer coach, Timothy Wells-Lee, who was convicted of 10 felony charges for sexual contact with underage students at gyms where he was formerly employed. Mr. Wells-Lee admitted he had a sexual relationship with one of the girls, but only after her 16th birthday. All four girls, however, testified the contact occurred before they were sixteen. Because of Jessica's Law, which mandates that offenders convicted of crimes such as aggravated indecent liberties, rape, sexual exploitation, promoting prostitution, or trafficking involving a child age 14 or younger be sentenced to life terms with a mandatory minimum, Mr. Wells-Lee faced at least one life term without a chance for parole for 25 years. The judge imposed a life sentence requiring him to serve time for each of his victims. If Mr. Wells-Lee is paroled after his sentence of life with a minimum of 25 years, Mr. Wells-Lee will then have to serve at least 17 of the next 20 years of his sentence before he is eligible for release, which is a total of 42 years, minimum, in prison.

For Your Calendar:

Sept. 7: Race for Freedom 5K Run/Walk to Stop Human Trafficking in Wichita by ICT-S.O.S. - shared benefit for the CAC; Registration and info at: race4freedom.com

Nov. 6-8: 37th Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect.

Nov. 9: The 2013 Heroes Gala at the Wichita Scottish Rite Center, 6:30 PM.

If you suspect child abuse or neglect call 911 or 1.800.922.5330

"The purpose of child advocacy centers is to provide a comprehensive, culturally competent, multidisciplinary team response to reports of child abuse, in a dedicated, child-focused setting."

National Children's Alliance

Empowering Local Communities to Serve Child Victims of Abuse