



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ZACHARY PARKER

Ward 5 Councilmember
Chair, Committee on Youth Affairs

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Health
Human Services
Transportation and the Environment

October 4, 2025

Nyasha Smith, Secretary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today I am introducing the Child Abuse and Investigation Multidisciplinary Team Certification Amendment Act of 2025. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation.

The safety and protection of children exposed to abuse is paramount to the District's child welfare system and all related oversight activities. To that end, this legislation will mandate rather than request the involvement of an accredited Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and regulate its participation in multidisciplinary team (MDT) investigations of child abuse. As many know, the Safe Shores organization now serves as the primary CAC for MDT investigations. This legislation would guarantee that any organization chosen to serve as the primary CAC for MDT investigations will be sufficiently vetted through accreditation. This bill ensures that vulnerable children in the District are guaranteed the standard of care and services they deserve.

This legislation:

- defines "CAC" as a Children's Advocacy Center;
- requires that the MDT make reasonable efforts to engage a CAC for services; and,
- requires the CAC serving as a member of the MDT to provide yearly certification of accreditation and good standing from a national crediting body to the Council.

I look forward to promoting this legislation with my colleagues to ensure that all child abuse investigations in the District of Columbia are conducted by certified experts who have completed all requisite trainings.

Please do not hesitate to contact my Committee Director, Thomas Franco, at tfranco@dccouncil.gov or my Legislative Assistant, Allison Bailey, at abailey@dccouncil.gov with any questions or concerns.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zachary Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zachary" and last name "Parker" clearly legible.

Zachary Parker
Councilmember, Ward 5
Chair, Committee on Youth Affairs
Council of the District of Columbia



Councilmember Zachary Parker

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977 to define “CAC” as an accredited Children’s Advocacy Center, to mandate the use of an accredited Children’s Advocacy Center during Multidisciplinary Team investigations, to establish an annual reassessment and designation of the District’s Children’s Advocacy Center, and to require the Children’s Advocacy Center supply to Council proof of its accreditation status upon annual designation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Child Abuse Investigation Multidisciplinary Team Certification Amendment Act of 2025”.

Sec. 2. The Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective September 23, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-22; D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.51 *et seq*) is amended as follows:

(a) Section 102(2B) (D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.02), is amended as follows:

“(2B) “CAC” means an accredited Children’s Advocacy Center under an agreement for services with the District of Columbia.”

(b) A new subsection (c) is added to read as follows:

“(c) The MDT shall make reasonable efforts to enter into an agreement for services with an accredited Children’s Advocacy Center for the purposes of coordinating the MDT investigation. The absence of a CAC shall not constitute grounds for the District’s investigating

authority to delay or fail to carry out an MDT investigation.

(c) A new subsection (d) is added to read as follows:

“(d) The CAC serving as a member of the MDT shall, on an annual basis for the life of its service agreement, provide the D.C. Council with documentation reflecting its accreditation status in good standing by a national accrediting body with demonstrated expertise in the CAC model.”

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 5. Effective date.

This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.