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CEO, Child Advocates of Fort Bend



February 17, 2026

Mr. Sean G. Whittmore
District Attorney
Waller County
645 12th Street
Hempstead, Texas 77445

Dear District Attorney Whittmore:

Child Advocates of Fort Bend respectfully submits this letter for support of the Fort Bend Children's Advocacy Center in the FY 2026 budget for Waller County. We are pleased to be able to serve Waller County on an official basis, which means that child victims of abuse and non-offending family in your area have access to the same services offered by our CAC as the children in Fort Bend County.

Our Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) provides forensic interviews, victim advocacy, support services for non-offending family members, therapy, and expert court testimony for Waller County children who have suffered sexual abuse, extreme physical abuse or were witness to violence. We have an onsite clinic for pediatric forensic exams, provided by certified practitioners through a partnership for Texas Forensic Nurse Examiner. These services are free of charge to your residents, Child Protective Service (CPS) or law enforcement and will remain as such. However, the services do incur the cost of staff, contractor fees for exams, forensic interview supplies and therapy materials, and the allocation from Waller County would be greatly appreciated to continue to serve clients' needs.

In 2025, our CAC served 89 children residing in Waller County. We expect an increase in all services for the year that includes Wraparound Services, and expanded abuse awareness and prevention services and resources with our Child Abuse Prevention-Collaborative.

Our request for funding in the amount of \$12,500 for the Fort Bend Children's Advocacy Center will serve child victims of abuse in Waller County and raise awareness of abuse to protect all children. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at 281-344-5103 or rmefford@cafb.org.

For the Children's Sake,

Ruthanne Mefford
Chief Executive Officer