

# BAY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MICHAEL P. KANUSZEWSKI

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in strong support of the CAN Council's Bay County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and their grant application to implement the Protecting All Children Together (PACT) Program.


As a dedicated community partner, we have witnessed firsthand the critical role the Bay County CAC plays in protecting our most vulnerable population—our children. Our ongoing collaboration with the CAC has proven invaluable in strengthening child abuse prevention and response efforts in our region. Their professionalism, trauma-informed approach, and unwavering advocacy for children create a safety net for families navigating the devastating effects of abuse and neglect.

The need for this program is urgent and evident. In our work, we regularly encounter children who have been exposed to violence, exploitation, or systemic instability. The CAC not only helps these children find their voice and begin the path toward healing, but also works tirelessly with law enforcement, child welfare agencies, and the courts to ensure justice is pursued. The PACT Program promises to expand this capacity—delivering comprehensive, evidence-based prevention, intervention, and support services across Arenac, Bay, Huron, and Saginaw Counties.

What sets the CAC apart is their ability to bring together professionals from multiple disciplines in a child-focused environment. Their team is both compassionate and capable, addressing sensitive issues such as human trafficking and child sexual exploitation with expertise and urgency. The CAN Council's infrastructure, experience, and strong community trust make them more than capable of carrying out this vital project.

We are proud to support this initiative and the work of the Bay County Child Advocacy Center. Their mission aligns closely with our own, and we firmly believe that the success of this program will bring lasting, positive change to the children and families we serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,  


Michael P. Kanuszewski

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BAY COUNTY COURT FACILITY, 1230 WASHINGTON, STE. 768, BAY CITY, MI 48708

TELEPHONE (989) 895-4185      FAX: (989) 895-4167  
TDD [HEARING IMPAIRED] (989) 895-2059

**TIMOTHY J. RUTKOWSKI**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



250 E. HURON, SUITE 103  
BAD AXE, MICHIGAN 48413  
(989) 269-9255  
FAX: (989) 269-2744

OFFICE OF THE

**HURON COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

October 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my commitment to the CAN Council of Arenac, Bay, Huron and Saginaw Counties and the valuable work they do. I am willing to serve on the new PACT Task Force in whatever capacity I can to assist the efforts of the CAN Council. The work of the CAN Council in protecting the children in this area is so valuable and I wholeheartedly support their work.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy J. Rutkowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Timothy J. Rutkowski  
Huron County Prosecuting Attorney



**John A. McColgan Jr.**  
**Saginaw County Prosecuting Attorney**

COURT HOUSE  
111 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE  
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48602

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Blair N. Stevenson  
*Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney*

October 14, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the Can Council/CAC of Saginaw County, and its efforts to obtain grant funding to implement the PACT program. Our office was involved in the original effort to develop a Children's Advocacy Center in Saginaw County because of problems we consistently saw in our community's response to child sexual abuse cases. The Can Council/CAC of Saginaw County has taken tremendous strides to address the challenges identified in our community, and to facilitate a coordinated effort to move this community forward.

Our partnership with the Can Council and the Child Advocacy Center is an essential component of the successful prosecution of crimes against children in Saginaw County. The outstanding team of professionals at the CAC work hard every day to create an environment in which children feel the safety, comfort, and support necessary to disclose the abuse and trauma they've suffered, and begin to rebuild their lives. The quality of the forensic interviews done by the staff of the CAC make it possible for us to obtain convictions in these most difficult cases. The likelihood of successful prosecutions regarding these crimes committed against our most vulnerable citizens is increased immeasurably due to the education, training, dedication and passion of the staff of the CAC.

The benefits of PACT of putting children on a path to healing and justice; advocating for children in the foster care system; educating the community, including children, parents and professionals, about child abuse prevention; addressing violence prevention, juvenile victimization and human trafficking and providing services and resources to families – all for the protection of children are exactly what our community needs.

We are thankful for the presence of the CAN Council/CAC of Saginaw County in our community and look forward to a long partnership as we work together to build a safer Saginaw County. I would urge your support of the Center's efforts to wrap their arms around this community's vulnerable child victims and insure the best possible response from the team of professionals who are dedicated to the protection of our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
John A. McColgan Jr.



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE  
Tri-City Post

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

COL. JAMES F. GRADY II  
DIRECTOR

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Tri-City Post of the Michigan State Police, I am writing to express our strong support for the development of a multidisciplinary taskforce through the CAN Council Children's Advocacy Center focused on addressing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). We commend this effort and are committed to participating actively and collaboratively to support its mission.

We recognize the importance of this initiative and are honored to be considered as a potential partner. Based on our organization's role and experience, we understand that taskforce participation will include:

- Attending Zoom meetings to assess local needs and priorities;
- Assisting in revising and strengthening county protocols related to CSEC;
- Providing discipline-specific support and services during medical exams, forensic interviews, advocacy, and/or case consultation;
- Evaluating and contributing to the interpretation of emerging data; and
- Completing 15 hours of CSEC-specific training, which will be funded by the CAN Council.

Currently, members of the Michigan State Police serve as first responders in child exploitation investigations. We are actively engaged in early planning discussions and anticipate continuing in a key role as the taskforce becomes operational.

Once the taskforce is fully underway, our responsibilities will include coordination of medical and child protective services, investigating incidents of CSEC, and active participation in case review meetings with other multidisciplinary members.

We are grateful for the opportunity to be involved in this vital work and look forward to collaborating with the CAN Council and other partners to improve outcomes for children and families affected by commercial sexual exploitation. Please feel free to contact me at 989-313-9908 with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,

Trooper Investigator Samantha Barlow  
Michigan State Police, Tri-City Post



## **Saginaw Police Department**

612 Federal Avenue  
Saginaw, Michigan 48607-1558  
(989) 759-1251  
FAX (989) 759-1538

10/24/25

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing in favor of Protecting American Children Together (PACT) Task Force that is lead by the CAN council. I am currently a Major Crimes Detective with the Saginaw Police Department in Saginaw, Michigan. I serve the city of Saginaw and surrounding jurisdictions, such as Saginaw Township and other Saginaw County municipalities.

Within our jurisdiction I have investigated cases related to the following:

- Sexual exploitation of children using digital devices
- Child abuse
- Exploitation of a child for custody hearing purposes
- Homicides
- Children who are victims of kidnapping and sexual assault

I am willing to participate in the PACT task force to assist with complex investigations and lend assistance to other agencies that may lack the resources to investigate crimes on their own. I am willing to assist in the development protocols and procedures to support coordination between the CAN council and law enforcement/governmental agencies.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I can be contacted at 989-245-7132.

Regards,

Det Moses Marrero  
Saginaw Police Department, Investigations  
mmarrero@saginaw-mi.com

**To Be Sure of Excellence**

# BAD AXE POLICE DEPARTMENT



100 S. HANSELMAN ST.  
BAD AXE, MICHIGAN 48413

*"To Protect and To Serve"*

BUS. OFFICE: (989) 269-9242  
[www.cityofbadaxe.com](http://www.cityofbadaxe.com)

**10/23/2025**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

On behalf of the Bad Axe Police Department, I am writing to express our strong support for the development of a multidisciplinary taskforce through the CAN Council Children's Advocacy Center focused on addressing the trauma that children experience during violent situations. We commend this effort and are committed to participating actively and collaboratively to support its mission. We recognize the importance of this initiative and are honored to be considered as a potential partner.

Currently, the Bad Axe Police Department serves as a law enforcement agency engaged in investigation of child abuse and child exploitation cases. We are actively engaged in early planning discussions and anticipate continuing in a key role as the taskforce becomes operational.

Once the taskforce is fully underway, our responsibilities will include support for specific protocol development as well as the continued investigation of the exploitation and abuse that occurs within our jurisdiction and the support of the agencies covered by the CAN Council Children's Advocacy Center.

We are grateful for the opportunity to be involved in this vital work and look forward to collaborating with the CAN Council and other partners to improve outcomes for children and families affected by violent crime and exploitation.

Please feel free to contact me at [pdeacons@cityofbadaxe.com](mailto:pdeacons@cityofbadaxe.com) with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Deacons" followed by a stylized flourish and the number "710".

**Detective Philip Deacons**

**Bad Axe Police Department**

100 S Hanselman St., Bad Axe MI 48413



989-250-0110  
www.MichiganForensicExaminers.com  
4805 Towne Center Rd Suite 102  
Saginaw, MI 48604

October 14, 2025

**Subject: Letter of Support for CAN Council's Protecting All Children Together (PACT) program**

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Michigan Forensic Examiners (MFE), I am writing to express our strong support for the CAN Council's Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and its proposed Protecting All Children Together (PACT) program. MFE is a nonprofit organization that provides 24/7 medical forensic exams for victims of sexual assault, child sexual abuse, human trafficking, and interpersonal violence across Mid-Michigan and the Thumb Region. In Saginaw County, MFE is the sole provider of medical forensic exams for child sexual abuse cases that present through the CAN Council's Child Advocacy Center. Our partnership ensures that every child served by the CAC has access to expert, trauma-informed medical evaluation and forensic evidence collection when abuse is suspected.

Funding awarded to CAN Council directly supports the medical forensic needs of this collaborative response. These resources help ensure MFE can remain on call 24/7 for the CAC's referrals, maintain an up-to-date and well-equipped medical exam room, replenish forensic and medical supplies, and retain a qualified Medical Director to oversee adherence to best practices and national standards. Together, these efforts protect children's physical and emotional well-being while strengthening the multidisciplinary team's ability to pursue justice.

The CAN Council's leadership and staff demonstrate exceptional professionalism, coordination, and compassion. Their ability to convene partners—including law enforcement, child protective services, and MFE's forensic nursing team—creates a model system of care that truly puts the child first. The proposed Protecting All Children Together initiative will expand these critical services and enhance the prevention, intervention, and advocacy work that our community deeply depends on.

MFE strongly supports the CAN Council's grant application and has complete confidence in their ability to deliver on the goals of the PACT program. We value our ongoing partnership and recognize that their success directly contributes to our shared mission: ensuring every child has access to safety, healing, and justice.

Sincerely,

Laura E. Swanson  
COO & Community Relations Director, Michigan Forensic Examiners  
Laura@MichiganForensicExaminers.com



## THUMB AREA ASSAULT CRISIS CENTER



acc@hdc-caro.org



989-551-8336



PO Box 318, Caro, MI 48723

### Letter of Support

10/7/2025

The Human Development Commission – Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center (TAACC) is honored to express our full support for the CAN Council and their Child Advocacy Center (CAC). Our partnership with the CAN Council has been an invaluable asset in ensuring survivors of sexual assault in Huron County across the lifespan receive 24/7 compassionate, specialized, and trauma-informed care.

Through our established Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), we work collaboratively to provide seamless referrals and coordinated support to survivors and their families. Medical forensic exams are now available across the lifespan, including pediatric and adolescent exams taking place in our Huron County SART Room alongside TAACC or CAC staff. In addition, the CAC is able to conduct mobile forensic interviews in our soft interview room within the same space, ensuring that children and families can access services in a setting designed to feel safe and supportive without a transportation barrier.

The CAN Council's dedication, time, and thoughtful attention to detail were instrumental in helping us create a beautiful and trauma-informed environment. The children's area of our office reflects this commitment, featuring developmentally appropriate resources, engagement tools, and coping supports such as and weighted stuffed animals. These intentional design choices help create a sense of comfort and security for young survivors and their families during an incredibly difficult time.

This partnership is vital to our shared mission of ensuring that everyone receives specialized care and that families are connected to the resources that matter most to them. The CAN Council's work is consistently meaningful, efficient, and carried out with a level of expertise that strengthens the entire network of survivor support in our community.

We are deeply grateful for their ongoing collaboration and look forward to continuing to serve survivors together with the same compassion, professionalism, and commitment that define our partnership.

With appreciation,

Kimberly Koepf, Survivor Support Manager



October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Child and Family Services of Saginaw County, I am writing to express our strong support for the Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Council's proposal to implement the Protecting All Children Together (PACT) Program. The CAN Council has long been a trusted and essential partner in our shared mission to serve children and families affected by abuse, violence, and exploitation.

Child and Family Services of Saginaw County is a comprehensive agency composed of three centers: the Counseling Center, the Sexual Assault Center, and the Employee Wellness Center. Through these centers, we provide trauma-informed counseling, crisis intervention, advocacy, and wellness services to individuals and families across the lifespan.

Our partnership with the CAN Council is rooted in a shared commitment to safeguarding children and supporting families. We have a long history of collaboration and reciprocal referrals that ensure victims receive coordinated, compassionate care. Specifically:

- The CAN Council conducts forensic interviews and forensic medical exams for children under the age of 13 who have experienced abuse, providing sensitive, child-centered investigation and advocacy. Following the forensic interview the CAN Council can provide information to survivors of sexual trauma both information and referrals to our programs free counseling services for victims of sexual violence.
- Following the forensic interview, the CAN Council can provide information and referrals to survivors of sexual trauma to access our program's free counseling and advocacy services.
- Additionally, individuals that require counseling but may have a focus outside of the scope of sexual trauma can be referred by the CAN Council to our Counseling Center for mental health treatment.
- Together, our agencies offer a seamless, trauma-informed system of care that supports victims and families across all stages of recovery and throughout our community.

This partnership strengthens the entire community's response to child abuse and neglect. By combining the CAN Council's expertise in prevention, intervention, and forensic advocacy for children with the Sexual Assault Center's therapeutic, legal, victim and general advocacy services, along with crisis services for teens and adults, we create a continuum of care that promotes safety, healing, and justice for children and families throughout our region.

*The Counseling Center*

*Employee Wellness Center*

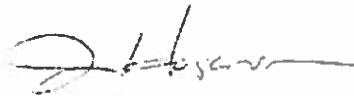
*Sexual Assault Center*

2835 Automotive Centre Rd • Saginaw, MI 48603 • 989.790.7500 • [www.childandfamily.saginaw.org](http://www.childandfamily.saginaw.org)

We are confident in the CAN Council's capacity to successfully implement the PACT Program. Their deep community connections, proven leadership in prevention education, and collaborative approach will enhance protective factors, reduce violence, and prevent future victimization, including the growing concerns of child sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Child and Family Services of Saginaw County is proud to support this initiative and remains committed to continued collaboration with the CAN Council to ensure every child in our community is protected, supported, and given the opportunity to heal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Hogenson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jill Hogenson  
Child and Family Services  
President/CEO