

SOS Programs and Services

Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

From forensic interview to prosecution, the CAC and its teams ensure that child cases of alleged abuse or neglect are monitored until resolution.

CASA of the Flint Hills

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) provides highly-trained volunteer advocates in Chase and Lyon Counties who advocate for the best interests of abused or neglected children involved in the court system. Visit www.casaforchildren.org for more information.

Child Visitation & Exchange Center

The CVEC offers supervised visitation or monitored exchanges in a safe, neutral environment for children and their families. The center has a friendly atmosphere and focuses on the safety and well-being of the child. The CVEC is open seven days a week. Court, community agencies and self-referrals are accepted.

Crisis and Outreach Services

Advocacy services are available for adult and child victims of domestic and sexual violence, as well as stalking and human trafficking. Our 24-Hour Helpline is 800-825-1295.



SOS, Inc.

PO Box 1191

Emporia, KS 66801

620-343-8799

www.soskansas.com

www.facebook.com/sosinc

Twitter—@SOSKansas

Pinterest—www.pinterest.com/soskansas

24-Hour SOS Helpline

800-825-1295

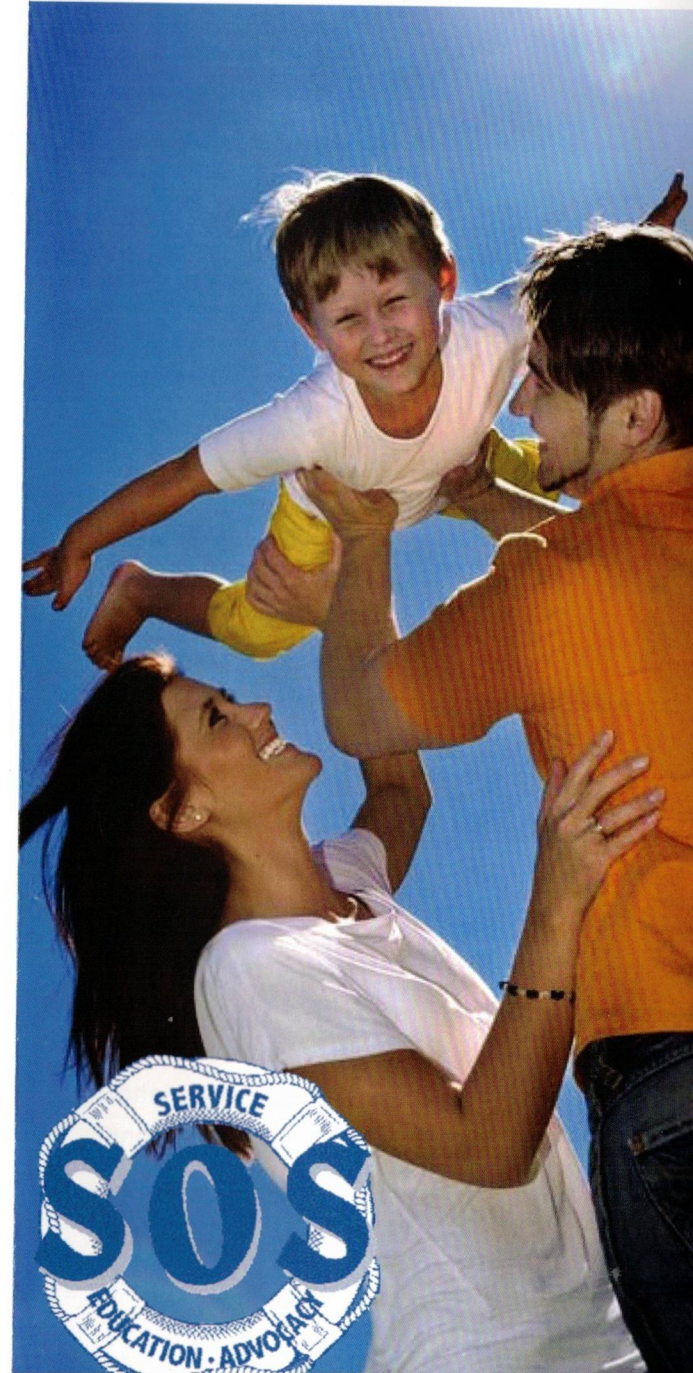
620-342-1870

SOS provides services in Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Lyon, Morris and Osage Counties

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Who We Are What We Do



Our Vision:

We envision a community in which every man, woman and child lives without fear of interpersonal violence.



Who We Are

SOS's mission is simple: To empower and advocate for those affected by sexual and domestic violence, child abuse and neglect. We believe that any kind of abuse is unacceptable and that everyone deserves to feel safe wherever they are. We collaborate with community partners to educate and prevent violence.

Through education and advocacy, SOS provides necessary intervention to protect victims. SOS partners with local service providers and resources to ensure our clients receive the highest level of advocacy possible, while protecting the client's right to confidentiality.

We focus on support, safety and court support for families in crisis. We help develop best practices. We also evaluate what changes need to be made in order to best serve those who have experienced domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect.

Volunteer Opportunities

SOS has a variety of volunteer opportunities in the counties we serve. No matter the amount of time you can give, you can help SOS make a difference in your community.

Every volunteer receives specialized training for their area of interest. Volunteers must pass a background check to work directly with SOS clients. Volunteers are supervised every step of the way and always have resources readily available to them.

For information about becoming volunteer victim advocate or child advocate call 620-342-1870.

For information about becoming a CASA volunteer, call 620-343-2744.

Education Opportunities

Talking about creating and maintaining healthy relationships helps prevent domestic violence and encourages children to speak out about child abuse, possibly giving them the encouragement they need to disclose abuse.

SOS offers a variety of presentations to schools, civic and service organizations.

To schedule a speaker call 620-343-8799.

SOS serves everyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, age, physical/mental ability and national origin.

"Through SOS's prevention services, I have seen students become more aware and conscientious about forms of abuse, as well as being kinder and more respectful of one another." — School personnel



Child Advocacy Center

The SOS Child Advocacy Center (CAC) serves children who have been abused or neglected. The CAC receives referrals from the Department for Child and Family and Law Enforcement only.

The CAC coordinates a collaborative partnership of professionals who are dedicated to providing child-sensitive and compassionate services for the child and the child's family. Professionals representing child protective services, legal, law enforcement, mental health, medical and other disciplines provide a coordinated team response when a child reports abuse or when there is reason to believe a child has been abused or neglected.

This team approach strives to reduce further trauma to the child and helps the child and family to heal from the emotional wounds associated with abuse. The multidisciplinary approach of the SOS Child Advocacy Center focuses on prevention, detection, investigation, treatment and prosecution and includes:

- child-centered investigative interviews (forensic interviews)
- multidisciplinary investigations and case management
- information and referral
- education and outreach
- professional in-service training
- child advocacy

In 2007, the SOS Child Advocacy Center received national accreditation from the National Children's Alliance, with re-accreditation occurring in 2013. The Child Advocacy Center has locations in Emporia and Burlington.

Contact:

Ashley Davis: CAC Director
620-343-8742
adavis@soskansas.com
PO Box 1191
25 W. 5th Ave.
Emporia, KS 66801

Links:

[National Children's Advocacy Center](#)
[Children's Advocacy Centers of Kansas](#)
[Crime Victims Rights Application](#)
[National Children's Alliance](#)

She was great with me, she explained things very clearly and she called to check on me. That really meant a lot to me at this point with all that me and my (family) have been through.

- SOS Child Advocacy Center Client

Shelter

SOS Shelter may be offered to people – adults of any gender or orientation and their children, if any – experiencing domestic violence. An SOS Crisis Services Advocate will assess a person's situation and determine if shelter is appropriate. Admission criteria includes whether they are considering leaving the abusive relationship and whether they are in danger of harm from or because of the abuser. Many issues will be considered during the assessment, including availability of room and the peace and safety of all residents. Confidentiality of the location and other residents is of utmost concern.

Shelter is a shared living experience, which can be difficult for some people. Every family has their own bedroom, but bathrooms, kitchens and living areas are shared. Because of the shared-living experience, residents have expectations to keep their bedrooms and living areas clean and to be considerate of others. Only clothing, hygiene items, prescriptions, and small personal items can be brought to the shelter. All items will be cleaned to prevent an infestation of bedbugs. All bedding, towels, and cleaning supplies are furnished. Food is purchased by the resident when possible; however, it can be provided for those unable to afford it. Clothing and small supplies can be furnished as needed.

A stay in the shelter is designed to be short-term, approximately 30 days. The option to extend that time will be considered on an individual basis. A shelter stay is to allow the resident (and their children) to be safe while re-examining their options to proceed with a safe life. The ultimate goal is for the resident or family to leave the shelter for a self-sufficient life while being safe from the abuser.



“She not only helped me feel secure in the process, she helped me feel confident about what I could do.”

- SOS domestic violence survivor



Advocacy

SOS Crisis Services offers advocacy to assist adults and children experiencing sexual and domestic violence, stalking and human trafficking move past the trauma they have endured. People of any gender or orientation can be victims – as well as perpetrators. Traumatic experiences physically alter the brain. Many times, the fallout from a traumatic experience is confusing and makes a person feel “not themselves” – sometimes to the extent that a seemingly normal life is gone. With caring support traumatized people can recover and normal lives can be regained. Advocates are professionally trained to provide sensitive services based on the needs expressed by the client. A person becomes a client when she, he or they agree to services.

Advocates are committed to providing compassionate, non-judgmental, free and confidential services. We believe our clients deserve:

- To be genuinely heard,
- To be believed, and
- To be the decision maker about their lives.

These tenants hold true regardless of who a person is. All people deserve and receive our respect.

Advocacy can be defined as the action of support. SOS Advocates offer options and discuss their pros and cons. Then the client decides what direction is best for them to take. An advocate may help the client access information they need or be a supportive presence at court hearings, meetings and interviews. Advocates spend time with clients to get to know their views and wishes and deliver services in a way this is client-centered and trauma-informed.

Advocates support independence. Certain people in clients’ lives, such as family, friends and other professionals, can be supportive and helpful but their relationships may be difficult if the client does not take action others want them to take. An advocate is independent and must represent the wishes of the client without judgement or opinion. We believe clients are the experts on their own lives.

[Is it safe at home?](#)

[Is it abuse?](#)

[Relationship Safety.](#)

[Are you being stalked?](#)



Protection Orders

Protection orders are a civil legal process that, when ordered by a judge, allows for criminal consequences to defendants when they do not follow the judge's orders. The orders are titled Protection from Abuse (for domestic or dating violence) and Protection from Stalking, Sexual Assault, or Human Trafficking. The criteria for all orders are defined by the law. SOS Crisis Services Advocates are trained to screen situations and determine with a client whether a protection order is the correct course of action.

A person is not required to have an advocate assist in the process to obtain a protection order. Applications are available at a district court clerk's office where people can complete the paperwork themselves and submit it to the court clerk. Working with an advocate, however, can be beneficial as they understand the process that often takes several hours to complete. At times SOS advocates cannot assist with a protection order request, however, such as when a conflict of interest exists or, through the advocate's assessment, the situation does not meet the legal criteria.



Prevention Education

SOS's vision is to end sexual and domestic violence by providing service, education and advocacy. SOS Crisis Services Advocates assist with educating the public about domestic and sexual violence, stalking, dating violence and human trafficking – or – healthy vs. unhealthy relationships. It is never too early to begin teaching children about healthy relationships and what to do if they or a friend is hurt. SOS prevention education is available for all ages – preschool through college and adulthood. Advocates enjoy educating students and groups throughout its six-county service area. Educating people is an investment in the future of our communities.

Prevention education curriculum is adapted for school presentations. Some examples are:

- [Elementary School Lessons \(Safer, Smarter Kids\)](#)
- K-12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum
- Safe Dates: An Adolescent Dating Abuse Prevention Curriculum
- Fair Girls: Tell Your Friends
- Conscious Discipline

Examples of education and awareness for university and community groups:

- [SOS: Who We Are and What We Do](#)
- [Domestic Violence](#)
- [Sexual Assault](#)
- [Consent](#)
- Human Trafficking