

Respect for Child Survivors Act:

Introduction to the new FBI MDT law and what it means for CACs

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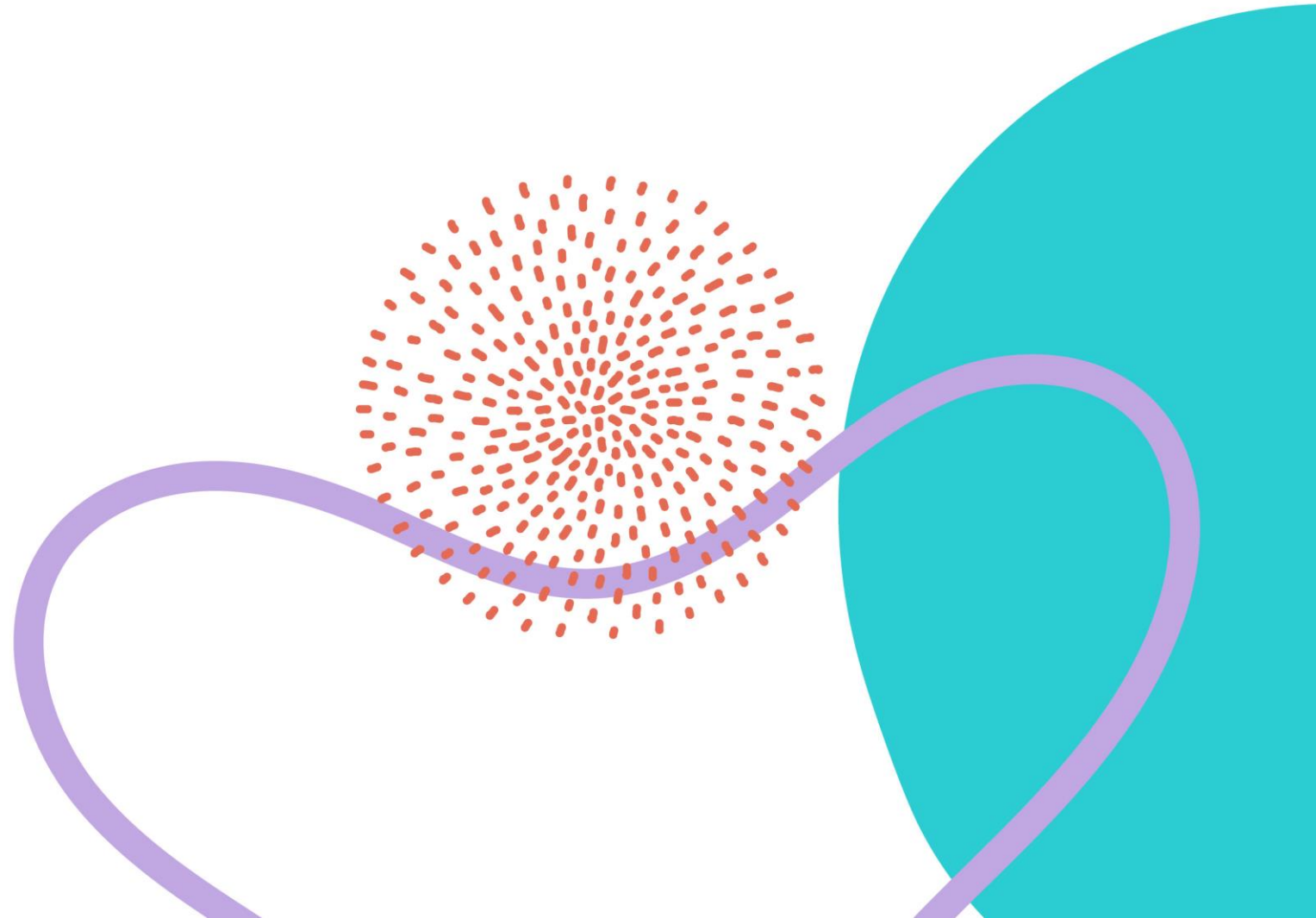
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Respect for Child Survivors Act

On Jan. 5th. President Biden signed into law the Respect for Child Survivors Act. This new law:

- ★ Requires the FBI to use a CAC-MDT approach to federal cases of child sexual abuse, child sex trafficking and online child exploitation;
- ★ Reauthorizes the Victims of Child Abuse Act program and increases the overall authorized funding level to \$40 million a year. (Previously it was authorized at \$21 million.)

Respect for Child Survivors Act: FBI Components

For federal cases involving child sexual abuse, child sex trafficking and online child exploitation, the FBI must:

- Use a CAC-MDT approach to these cases
- Include CAC personnel as a member of the MDT
- Allow for information sharing among CACs/MDT partners
- Encourage collaboration with CAC to provide trauma-informed services to families
- Attend periodic case review

The CAC must provide the FBI with forensic interview recordings, documentation, medical reports, etc. that they compile regarding the joint cases.

Respect for Child Survivors Act: Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization

- The new law also reauthorizes the Victims of Child Abuse Act.
- This law, first authorized in 1990, is the only federal funding stream solely dedicated to CAC services.
- The law updates the statute to better reflect the current needs of the field.
- The law also increases the authorized federal funding level for VOCAA to \$40 million.

What does this new law mean for CACs?

- The 2022 MOU is current and active. There are no plans to update the MOU currently.
- NCA encourages CACs to sign-on to the MOU to support efforts to strengthen CAC-FBI partnerships and help ensure children in FBI cases have access to CAC services.
- NCA will work with the FBI on plans to implement the requirements of this law.
- CACs will likely not see changes in their work with FBI partners locally until guidance is issued from FBI leadership and legal to FBI field offices. This will take time.
- In the meantime, CACs are encouraged to continue to work with FBI partners as they have been.
- NCA will update CACs on changes as they develop, through webinars and Weekly Update emails.

Participate in the FBI-NCA MOU

All Accredited CACs are eligible to participate/sign-on.

- **Need more info?** Please visit the [FBI-NCA MOU page](#) on the NCA Engage Learning Center to view the MOU, access webinar recordings, preview questions on the participation form, and learn more. Not seeing all the info? Please be sure you are signed in to NCA Engage.
- **Ready to sign?** Click [here](#) to complete the online participation form.
- **Questions or concerns?** Contact Heather Provencher, NCA Coordinator for FBI and Military Initiatives, at hprovencher@nca-online.org or 202-548-0090 ext. 119.

Questions and Discussion

Thank you!



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