

# Welcome to the WISE Families Program

## ABOUT US:

WISE Families is a community-based program that provides assessment, treatment, education, prevention and support services to children and families who have either experienced child-on-child sexual abuse within their families or social network *or* have concerns regarding sexual behavior that may *become* problematic.

## Treatment:

WISE Families treatment focuses on helping all members of the family recover from the abuse -- when applicable -- and make the necessary changes to ensure the family environment is safe for everyone. Prevention of future problematic behaviors is also addressed.

## Locations:

Services are provided at two Essex County locations:

- Children's Aid and Family Services  
76 S. Orange Avenue, Suite #209  
S. Orange, NJ 07079 (973) 763-2041
- Wynona's House Child Advocacy Center (CAC)/RDTC  
185 Washington Street  
Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 753-1110

## Contact:

**Referrals to the program can be made by contacting Children's Aid and Family Services at (201) 740-7137 or the CAC at (973) 753-1165.**

## WHO WE SERVE:

Families who meet the following criteria are eligible for services:

- A child (between the ages of 8 and 15) has been brought to the attention of the Family Court, law enforcement, or Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP) for committing a sexual offense against another child who is a member of the family or the household, school mate, neighbor, or part of the child's social network.
- Treatment is offered to children and adolescents who have engaged in a **single** sexually inappropriate act, as well as to those who have had **repeated** incidences of inappropriate sexual behavior.
- Treatment is also **preventative** and offered to young people who show inappropriate sexual behaviors but haven't acted upon them.

## Program Requirements:

- The child must be able to participate in group counseling.
- The child's parent(s) or caregiver(s) are willing to participate in the treatment processes.
- The family has been referred to the WISE Families Program by the Prosecutor's Office, the Wynona's House Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) or the Division of Child Protection & Permanency.

## PROGRAM SERVICES:

**Assessment:** The WISE team provides comprehensive individual and family assessments at intake, during treatment, and at discharge. Additionally, the program clinicians maintain contact with graduated families for a one-year period post-treatment completion.

**Counseling:** Both the child victim and young person with sexual behavior problems participate separately in counseling. (The youth with sexual behavior concerns receives treatment through Children's Aid and Family Services; the victim receives treatment through RDTC.)

Young people and caregivers are in treatment for approximately 12 – 16 weeks with Children's Aid and Family Services. Each family will receive group counseling based on a comprehensive, evidence-based treatment curriculum. Additionally, supplemental individual and family sessions are available, which include safety and treatment planning.

Details of the sessions provided are specified in the Special Approval Request (SAR).

