



zebra
Child & Youth Advocacy Centre

Step-by-Step Welcome Guide



Welcome to the Zebra Centre

The Zebra Child & Youth Advocacy Centre was the first Centre of its kind in Canada, providing services and supports to children and youth who have experienced abuse.

Our multidisciplinary team of caring professionals include members of the Edmonton Police Service, RCMP, Children's Services, Alberta Health Services and Crown Prosecutors as well as Zebra Centre staff and volunteers who all work together to provide safety, support and strength to everyone who comes to the Zebra Centre.

This guide will provide you with directions to find the Zebra Centre, information about what to expect when you arrive, details of what the interview process looks like and other information for caregivers. Our contact information is also included, and you are welcome to contact us with questions, concerns and any needs for special accommodations.



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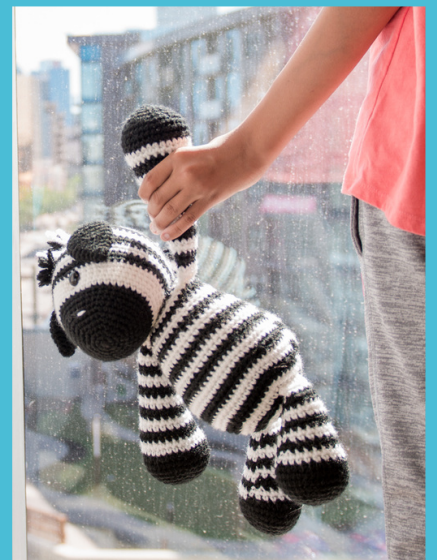


Before you Arrive

The Zebra Centre is a space that supports children/youth and their non-offending caregivers.

When considering who is best to accompany the child/youth to their appointment, consider who may make them feel the safest and most comfortable.

The support people that come in with the child could be parents, grandparents or other safe relatives, but we also invite you to bring a support from your cultural or spiritual community (eg. and Elder or Knowledge Keeper), or other forms of non-familial kinship/support (eg. friend, advocate, teacher).



The Zebra Centre welcomes folks of all identities, abilities, cultural and spiritual backgrounds. If there is anything we can do to better accommodate your visit to our Centre, please let us know!



Getting to the Zebra Centre

**10909 Jasper Ave NW
Floor 7**

Parking is for families and caregivers ONLY, police partners must utilize street parking or paid parking on west side of building.

Parking

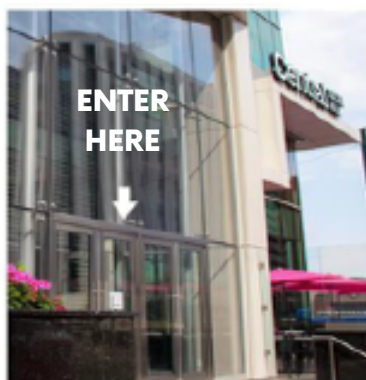
Zebra Centre client parking is located at the south end of the parking lot behind our building (WSP Place 10909 Jasper Avenue). You can access the parking by going south on 109 Street NW towards 100 Ave NW. Turn right after the electronic billboard as shown in the picture on the left. Please note that Zebra Centre parking is only for families and caregivers. Please use street or paid parking options if you're not either of the aforementioned.



We have 6 stalls (stalls #17-#22) with numbers that are shown in the white box. Look for the signs located on the concrete barriers that look like this:



Take a note of your stall number and your license plate to register your car at reception. Cars which are not parked at these stalls are at risk of being towed at the owner's expense.



1
The entrance to WSP Place is to the left of Central Social Hall (picture 1).

2
We are located on the 7th floor of this building. Once you arrive, turn left and you will see a door with a zebra mural behind it (picture 2).

3
Once inside, go to the door on the left and ring the doorbell, circled in green, to be let into reception (picture 3).



Arriving at the Zebra Centre

Due to scheduling and space availability, please do not arrive more than fifteen minutes before your appointment time. If you come earlier that's okay! There are plenty of places nearby to grab a snack or coffee before you come in.



Reception

Once you arrive at reception, a member of the Zebra Centre team will be there to greet you.

Your parking information will be collected at this time



Child-Friendly Rooms

One of our child advocates will accompany you and your child to one of our child-friendly rooms.

Here, your child can play, colour, and relax in advance of their interview.

The advocate will be there to provide support and answer questions.



Facility Dogs

The Zebra Centre has 2 facility dogs, Captain and Cajun who are here to provide emotional support for children at the Centre, as well as at court.

Captain or Cajun may be available to meet the child before their interview and may be available to accompany them into their interview as well. If you or your child do not want a dog present, or have allergies please let us know.

Please note: No other dogs are permitted in the Zebra Centre, except Service Dogs with proof of identification (an Alberta ID card or, if a Facility Dog, accreditation from an ADI school).



The Interview Process



The Interview

An investigator or forensic interviewer will accompany your child to an interview room, which is equipped with cameras and microphones so that your child does not have to repeat their disclosure numerous times to different investigative partners.

There, they will conduct a forensic interview with the child about the incident in a safe and comfortable space.

After the Interview

The officer in charge of your child's file will discuss the next steps in the investigation after the interview (these steps will vary depending on the outcome of the interview).

Zebra Centre Advocates will keep in touch with updates, information and referrals through telephone calls.

As you support your child through this difficult experience, we encourage caregivers to tend to the emotional needs of your child, but do not do a long debrief about the experience. Please take note of any additional disclosures and inform the member in charge of these should they occur.





Important Things to Consider

It is best not to discuss the interview before coming to the Centre as investigators will want the most unfiltered version of the child's story when they are being interviewed.

Certain cases are prioritized based on the safety of the child and family, preservation of evidence, and the risk a suspect poses to the family and broader public. As such, each case is different and will take a varying amount of time to be closed. Most caregivers should be aware that it could possibly take months before an investigation is closed.

Your child may not disclose during the interview process, and that is okay. Ask the officer in charge whether or not to talk about the incident with your child. Some kids may not be ready to disclose, and since there is no time limit on charges for sexual offences, it is better for a child to take their time to disclose.

Contact Information

Below is some useful contact information. Please feel free to reach out to us or the police member assigned to your child's case if you have any questions or concerns at any time.

Zebra Centre Reception
(780) 421 - 2385

Child Advocate Line
(780) 421 - 2359

Email
info@zebracentre.ca

Website
zebracentre.ca



10909 Jasper Ave NW
Floor 7

