

**Harmony Home Children's Advocacy Center
Memorandum of Understanding**

This agreement made by and between the undersigned agencies,

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, there is a statewide need to enhance coordination among community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention system of child abuse, and that there is a need for professionals to be child-sensitive; the undersigned heads of agencies in Ector County agreed to the establishment of HARMONY HOME CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER in Odessa, Texas; and;

WHEREAS, having recognized these problems, the participating agencies of Harmony Home Children's Advocacy Center of Ector County have agreed to cooperate in developing a cooperative, team approach to investigating child abuse; reducing, to the greatest extent possible, the number of interviews required of a victim of child abuse to minimize the negative impact of the investigation on the child; and developing, maintaining, and supporting, through the center, an environment that emphasizes the best interests of the children of Ector County and that provides investigatory and rehabilitative services; and

WHEREAS All State and Federal confidentiality laws will be followed in connection with this agreement and this agreement can be terminated by any party without cause by giving written notice to the other parties

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned agencies have agreed to support the concept, philosophy, and development of a Children's Advocacy Center in Ector County, Texas.

Dated this the _____ day of _____, 2016

Marisol Espinoza, Executive Director
Harmony Home Children's Advocacy Center

Bobby Bland, District Attorney
Ector County

Dusty Gallivan, County Attorney
Ector County

Tim Burton, Chief of Police
Odessa Police Department

Mark Donaldson, Sheriff
Ector County Sheriff's Office

Tom Crowe, Superintendent
Ector County Independent School District

William "Bill" Webster, Administrator
Medical Center Hospital

Kristene Blackstone, Assistant Commissioner
DFPS - Child Protective Services

Beth Engelking, Assistant Commissioner
DFPS - Adult Protective Services

Jean Shaw, Assistant Commissioner
DFPS - Child Care Licensing

Lyn White-Giesler, Executive Director
CASA of the Permian Basin Area