



Clothing Donation Policy

Effective August 15, 2007

Safe Shores—The DC Children's Advocacy Center (SAFE SHORES) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is both a direct service provider to child victims of abuse and coordinator of the efforts of the District of Columbia's Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) on Child Abuse. The mission of the DCCAC is to ensure the safety, health and well-being of abused and traumatized children in the District of Columbia by uniting the strengths of public, private and community partners.

As part of accomplishing its mission, Safe Shores provides emergency resources to child victims at no cost to them or their families. Among those resources are clothing and toiletries, through Safe Shores' Clothes Closet program. A child victim may need clothing for any number of reasons: if a her/his clothes are taken for evidentiary purposes, if s/he is moved into foster care or third party placement due to imminent abuse or neglect and has only the clothes s/he is wearing, or if s/he comes to Safe Shores dressed in inappropriately sized or non-seasonal clothing.

Safe Shores greatly appreciates clothing and toiletry donations made by community members. Indeed, community support enables us to provide even more children with the clothing and toiletries that help move them forward on the road to healing.

The best interests of the children we serve drive all our program policies and decisions. Recognizing the special emotional needs of child victims of abuse, and the importance of being able to maintain a consistently high quality of resources for our clients, beginning August 15, 2007, **Safe Shores will only be accepting brand new (previously unworn) clothing.** This includes children's pajamas, underwear, socks, shoes and coats.

In light of our small staff and limited space, if a donation of used clothing is brought to the Center, the items cannot be accepted. To assist donors, Safe Shores is pleased to provide a list of organizations that accept used clothing. Please feel free to contact Safe Shores' Victim Services staff at (202) 638-2575 x 100 with any questions or for more information.