



CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTER APPOINTMENT INFORMATION FOR CAREGIVERS AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEMBERS

What to Tell the Caregiver Before the Interview Takes Place

An appointment at the Children's Resource Center (CRC) includes a forensic interview, a medical exam, and an assessment by a mental health coordinator.

Remind caregivers that an alleged perpetrator may not attend the CRC appointment.

What is involved in a Forensic Interview?

- A forensic interview is conducted in a child-friendly room by a specially trained Child Interview Specialist who knows how to talk to kids about their experiences in a way that is non-leading and non-suggestive.
- Interviews are video-recorded and take place in a room with a camera and microphone so investigators can view the interview from an observation room through a closed-circuit TV system.
- Video recordings **CANNOT** take the place of a child's testimony in court, should it be needed in the future.
- Caregivers are not permitted in the interview room and they will not be able to watch the interview. ***Interviews are conducted this way to protect against any concerns of coaching or tainting of the interview.***

What does the Medical Exam Involve?

- Most children who are evaluated at the CRC have a "check-up" performed by a nurse practitioner or physician with specialized training in the examination of children when there is a possible history of abuse. The medical provider is assisted by a medical assistant.
- Children may have a parent or supportive adult in the exam room with them, if they choose.

What happens during the examination?

- Children have a "head to toe" examination as they would during a regular visit to their primary care physician. This exam will include viewing of the genital and anal areas using a special magnifying light, called a colposcope, to view possible scars, tears, or other injuries. *The colposcope does not touch the child in any way and does not hurt.*
- Young girls never have a speculum inserted during the examination. Teenage girls, depending on their history, may have a pelvic examination that includes a speculum.
- For some children, blood testing may be recommended.
- Most children are not upset by the exam and the medical provider explains what will happen to make sure the child is comfortable.

Children are not held down for an examination. Children do not receive shots or immunizations at the CRC.



CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTER MEDICAL EVALUATION INFORMATION FOR CAREGIVERS AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEMBERS

Why is an examination important?

- The exam can help to identify injuries that may have occurred as the result of abuse.
- It can identify other issues not related to abuse, but in need of treatment.
- It gives the medical provider a chance to reassure the child that their body is normal and healthy and offers an opportunity to address concerns the child may have about their body.

Will the examination show whether my child has been abused?

- Most children have no physical injuries to their genital and/or anal areas following abuse, so a normal examination cannot “prove” that inappropriate contact or abuse has occurred or that it has not occurred.

Assessment for supportive services

- During the appointment, the child and caregiver will each meet with the mental health services coordinator to assess the child’s level of distress.
- The mental health services coordinator will meet with the caregiver about the assessment and provide resources on where the caregiver can obtain support and counseling services, if indicated.

What to Know After the Interview

- As long as there are no safety concerns that would put the child’s physical or emotional well-being in jeopardy, the interviewer will share the details of the interview with the parent or caregiver.
- Each agency will then talk with parent or caregiver to explain what happens next in the process.



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