

WHAT TO EXPECT

INTRODUCTIONS

You and your child will meet your Family Advocate and the Forensic Interviewer assigned to your case. You will complete intake paperwork and both you and your child will receive a tour of the facility.

FORENSIC INTERVIEW

Your child will be interviewed in a child friendly room by a specially trained Forensic Interviewer. The interviewer asks neutral, fact finding questions in a way that is sensitive to your child's age and ability. The interview will be recorded. This may help reduce the need for repeat interviews.

FAMILY ADVOCACY

While your child is being interviewed, you will meet with your Family Advocate. During this time, the Family Advocate will address concerns, answer questions, and discuss any needed support moving forward.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

The Detective assigned to the case and/or the Child Protection Specialist may want to talk with you before and/or after the interview. At this time, they may be able to tell you what may happen next regarding the investigation. This may also be a good time for you to share information and your concerns.

ABOUT US

THE CAC IS A PROGRAM OF FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT CASA ASSOCIATION

LEAVENWORTH LOCATION

106 S 5th St.
Leavenworth, KS

ATCHISON LOCATION

521 Commercial St.
Suite D
Atchison, KS

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR VISIT CALL US:

(913) 651-6440

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

CASALVKS.ORG/CAC

TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE

Kansas Protection Report Center
1-800-922-5330

*Before Your Visit:
Information for Caregivers*



CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

of Leavenworth & Atchison Counties

Where Children Have a Voice



Where
Children
have a Voice



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- DO** Reassure your child that he or she is not in trouble, that it is okay to talk to the interviewer, and the CAC is a safe place.
- DON'T** Tell your child they are going to a doctor's office, therapy appointment, etc.
- DO** Explain to your child what will happen when they arrive at the Child Advocacy Center and what they are going there to talk about with the interviewer.
- DON'T** Tell your child what to say during the interview.
- DO** Explain to your child that he or she will be meeting with a person whose job it is to talk with children and listen to what they have to say.
- DON'T** Question your child, ask for more details about what happened, or ask direct questions.
- DO** Tell your child it's not his/her fault. Children sometimes feel a significant amount of guilt and shame about what has happened and they need to know child abuse is NEVER the child's fault.

WHAT IS A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER?

A Child Advocacy Center is a neutral, family-friendly space for alleged child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse or witness to a crime to tell their story. With a CAC, the child tells their story once to a trained interviewer. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again; to doctors, law enforcement, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others.

Without CACs



With CACs



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does a referral to the Child Advocacy Center mean?

When an allegation of child abuse has been made it is important for law enforcement and child protection specialists to ensure the child's safety. Part of this includes your child completing a forensic interview at the Child Advocacy Center. The forensic interview is just one part of the process; law enforcement and child protection specialists will also gather other information while working with each other and you to ensure the safety of your child.

How long will a visit last?

The length of your visit at the Child Advocacy Center can vary depending on how many children are being interviewed, the amount of time your child needs to talk, and how much time is needed for you to meet with the Family Advocate, Detective, and Child Protection Specialist. We do not limit the amount of time.

May I stay with my child during the interview?

We know talking about abuse can be difficult. However, children must talk to the interviewer alone. Allowing caregivers or others to sit in the room may be a distraction for the child or make them feel uncomfortable sharing the details of their abuse. Children may also want their caregivers to answer questions for them. To preserve the integrity of the interview and investigation, it is best if the child can provide information independently.