



What to Expect

Parents/Caregivers Guide to Your Child's Forensic Interview



www.cacofaiken.org
(803) 644-5100

What is a Forensic Interview?

We know this can be an anxious time for you and your family. In the near future, one of our staff members will be calling you to schedule your child's forensic interview appointment. You will receive text, email and/or phone call reminder ahead of time regarding your appointment.

The Forensic Interview is a vital part of the investigative process and so it is very important that you come at your scheduled time. If you cannot make it, please call us immediately to reschedule. If you have questions or are unsure, feel free to call. We would rather you call than worry - (803) 644-5100.

On the day of your appointment, please arrive 15 min. early to complete your paperwork. Once the paperwork is complete, one of our staff members will meet with you one-on-one to gather some additional information. Afterward your child will be brought back to a child-friendly, specially equipped room, to talk with our interviewer.

SPECIAL NOTE:

It is our Center's policy that - Suspected offenders or the person under investigation, **ARE NOT ALLOWED** to transport the child being interviewed or be on our Center's property.

Location:

Child Advocacy Center of Aiken - 4231 Trolley Line Rd Aiken, SC 29801

LISTEN - BELIEVE - SUPPORT



Preparing your child

The interview will be:

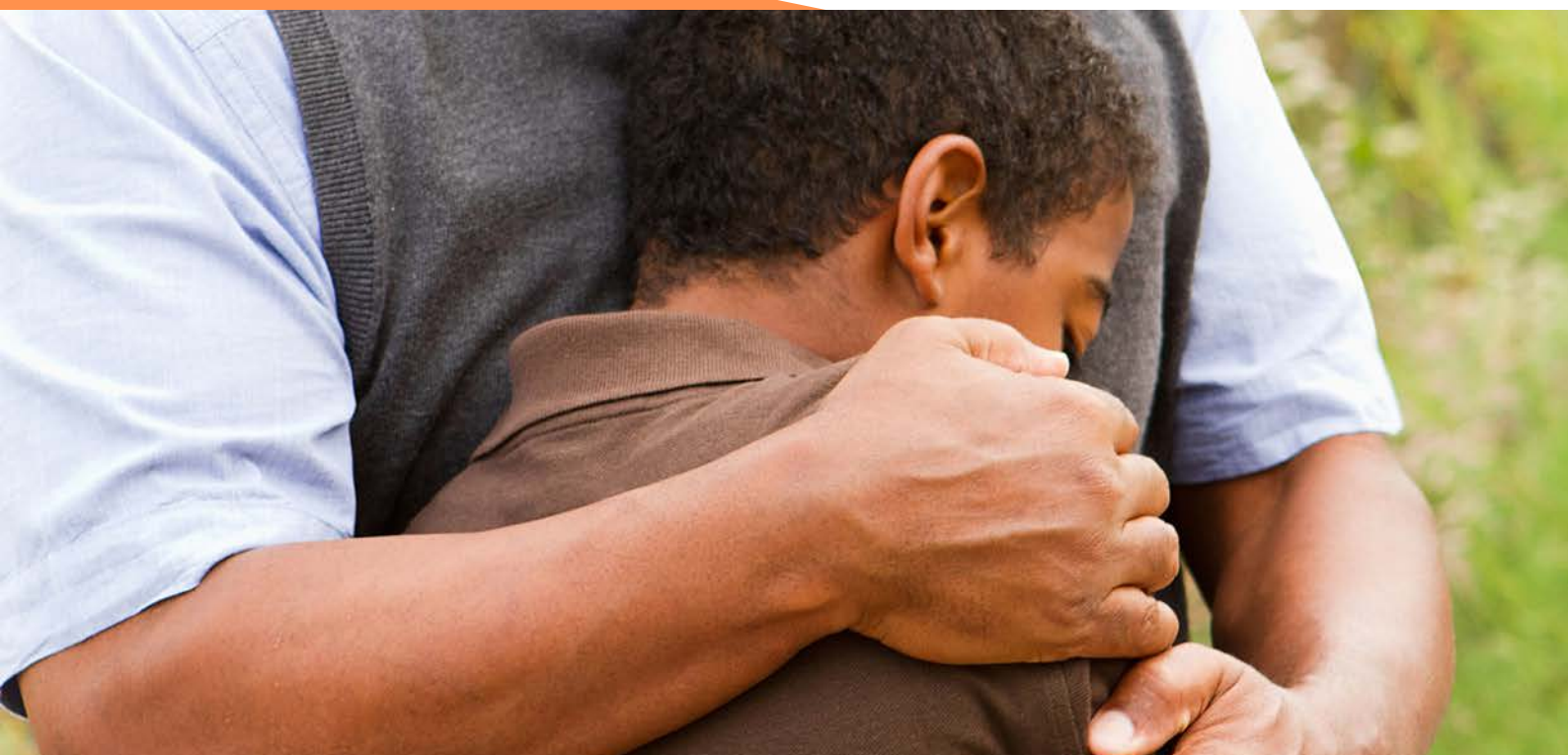
- Recorded and last between 20 and 90 minutes
- Confidential - all interview recordings are considered evidence and are not shared outside of the investigative team.
- Conducted in a child-sensitive, non-threatening and structured to encourage your child to talk

Remember to:

- Make sure they are well rested
- Continue to give them their prescription medications as prescribed.
- Tell them that they will be visiting a safe place where they will speak with a person whose job it is to talk with kids and teenagers
- Explain that they are not in trouble
- Give them permission to talk with the interviewer and let them know it is OK to tell the truth and to talk about anything

Please DO NOT:

- Ask them questions about the situation
- Practice with or tell them what to say
- Offer names of possible offenders or possible acts of abuse
- Promise treats or rewards for talking
- Question or ask why they didn't tell sooner



Questions & Answers

Will I be able to watch my child's interview?

No. We're sorry but only professionals directly involved in the investigation are allowed to observe the interview. We understand this causes a lot of anxiety for our parents/caregivers, but this is done in order to reduce the possible stress that can be placed on a child and to provide a neutral setting for the child and the investigation

What will happen after the interview?

You may be able to talk to members of the investigation team. They may tell you in general terms what they learned from the interview and you may have an opportunity to ask questions and voice your concerns.

- It is important to continue to support your child after the interview.
- If they want to talk about the interview – Listen—Do not ask questions.
- Don't be concerned if your child doesn't want to talk. Many children are “tired” of talking and just want to “get on with it”. They may want to talk at a later time.
- Praise them for having the courage to talk. Assure them of your love and support, no matter what.
- Avoid leading them to think that the interview will end the process. Some cases continue and may require re-interviews or court testimony.

Will my child need a Medical Evaluation?

Based on the allegation or the interview, the investigative team may decide a medical evaluation is needed. For many children, just knowing their bodies are ‘okay’ or normal is a huge relief. Often times seeing our medical provider helps make them less worried or anxious. If required, our staff will give you more information about what to expect.



Questions & Answers

What support is available for my family?

Our center's Child Advocate will meet with you while the interview is taking place. You will be provided with support, your needs will be assessed, and you will be given information about our services, as well as other community resources that are available to you.

Our advocate will also follow up with a phone call to check on your family and assist with any needs you may have. At any time, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to call our Advocate, they will do what they can to assist you.

Will my child need counseling/therapy?

In most instances, it is important to provide your child with an opportunity to talk with a professional. Too often parents just want their child to "forget" about the abuse and "move on." That's easier said than done.

Counseling can help your child and family through this very difficult time. It's best to address issues and concerns now, rather than years later. Our Center has licensed therapists that specialize in trauma and abuse.

Therapy is available to your family at no cost to you. We can also provide you with referrals to therapists in the community. Just let us know.

***The most important things you can do is to
BELIEVE THEM &
PROTECT THEM FROM FURTHER ABUSE***



Giving Every Child a VOICE

Investigation Team includes:

Sheriff's Office
(from Aiken & surrounding counties)
Aiken & N. Augusta Public Safety
Solicitor's Office
SC Dept. of Social Services
Child Advocacy Center of Aiken

Other Supporting Agencies

Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Centers
Aiken Regional Medical Center
Aiken County Public Schools
Cumbee Center
Helping Hands Inc.
Children's Place





Location

**4231 Trolley Line Rd.
Aiken, SC 29801**

Phone

(803) 644-5100

Fax

(803) 644-7233

Website

www.cacofaiken.org

