

## Child Forensic Interviews at Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center

### What to Expect at a Forensic Interview

- ▶ At Dawson Place your child will be greeted by a Forensic Interviewer.
- ▶ Your child will be interviewed in our interview suite specially designed for children.
- ▶ In a separate room, law enforcement and other experts will watch and listen.
- ▶ The interviewer will take the child through the fact finding interview process. Interviews are developmentally appropriate and legally sound.
- ▶ The child can take a break at anytime during the interview process.
- ▶ During the interview, parents may meet with their advocate at Dawson Place.

### Child Interview Specialists

Forensic Interviews are led by Child Interview Specialists. They are specially trained to speak with children and ask questions in a neutral, non-leading, and non-threatening manner. This is essential should the case go to trial.

The interviewer will match your child's pace and will never force a child to talk.

### How to Help Your Child

#### Before the Forensic Interview:

- ▶ Let your child know they are going to Dawson Place where they will talk with an interviewer whose job it is to listen to kids.
- ▶ You might say "I'm going to take you to see someone who talks to kids. They talk to kids about all sorts of things. You are not in trouble. It's okay to tell them everything that's happened. Make sure you tell them the truth."
- ▶ Assure your child you will accompany them, but that they will be talking to the interviewer alone.
- ▶ Make sure your child is fed and uses the restroom before their interview.

#### After the Forensic Interview:

- ▶ Thank you child for talking to the interviewer.
- ▶ Listen to your child if they choose to talk about the interview.
- ▶ Do NOT pressure your child to talk about the interview.
- ▶ Assure your child of your love and support no matter what they said during the interview.
- ▶ Remind them that they did nothing wrong and they are not in trouble.

## Important Information

### Can I watch the interview?

No. The interview is observed by the detective and others working on the case. This provides a neutral setting for the child and investigation. Having a parent or guardian in the room or witnessing the interview can compromise the integrity of the interview.

### What if my child does not want to do the interview?

The child will not be forced to take part in the interview and can stop at any time. Child Interview Specialists are trained to make the process as comfortable as possible for the victim.

### Is there a cost for the interview?

Interviews, along with all other services offered at Dawson Place, are provided at no cost to families.

A facility dog may take part in the interview to provide comfort to the child.



## About Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center is a nonprofit organization that exists because EVERY child who is the victim of physical abuse, sexual assault, neglect, drug endangerment, or witness to a violent crime deserves the professional care that they need to be safe, to seek justice, and to heal.

### No cost services provided at Dawson Place:

- ▶ Victim Advocacy and Support
- ▶ Child Forensic Interviews
- ▶ Medical Examinations
- ▶ Investigation & Prosecution Services
- ▶ Mental Health Assessments
- ▶ On-going Therapy (ages 0-22)
- ▶ Information and Referrals
- ▶ Community Outreach and Education

To contact Dawson Place CAC  
425-789-3000  
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

To speak with an advocate from  
Providence Intervention Center for  
Assault and Abuse:  
425-252-4800 (24hrs/day)