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|  | *Start here**Healing begins today* |
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| **ABOUT THE CAC** |
| *The mission of this Child Advocacy Center is to provide your child with a comfortable, private environment for telling a difficult story during a necessary investigation.* *CAC staff are here for you, your child, and your family.* |

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| **CONTACT THE CAC** |
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|  | *812-555-5555* |
| f0e0 icon | *info@incacs.org* |
| alt, list icon | *www.incacs.org* |
| facebook, square icon | *facebook.com/indianacacs* |

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| **YOU HAVE AN ADVOCATE** |
| *The CAC does not make case-specific decisions during the investigation.**The role of the CAC staff does not end after you leave here today, either. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your Victim Advocate.* *The Victim Advocate will help work with you, agencies, partners, & professionals in the best interest of your child.**YOUR VICTIM ADVOCATE IS:* |

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|  | **HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE FORENSIC INTERVIEW**Indiana Chapter of National Children's Alliance* It is important that you do not coach or rehearse what to say or do before or during the interview. Nor should you question them.
* The forensic interviewer is a trained professional who will ask non-leading questions to determine what happened to your child. They will not pressure your child. They will not rush your child.
* It may take about an hour or several hours depending on your child’s response.

To help put them at ease before speaking to the forensic interviewer, show them what to expect by visiting the CAC’s website. Tell them, *“We are going to the CAC. It’s a special place where kids go to talk about important stuff. The person talking with you will be very nice and will ask you about what happened recently. It’s okay to tell them everything. You are not in any trouble.”***WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE INTERVIEW*** Only the child and the interviewer are allowed in the room.
* A multidisciplinary team (MDT) consisting of a prosecuting attorney, a DCS caseworker, law enforcement, and a detective will be listening and watching the interviewer through closed-circuit television and audio.
* As a benefit of coming here, your child will not interact with anyone on the MDT

**WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW AFTER THE INTERVIEW*** After the interview is complete, a DCS caseworker or Family Case Manager (FCM), or a law enforcement officer will come speak to you privately. They will tell you what to expect next.
* Unless asked otherwise, you and your child are free to leave after talking with the team.
* Afterwards, the team will develop a plan, the investigation will continue, and the FCM will contact you soon with more detailed information.

If your child does not bring up or start talking about the interview, you do not need to bring it up. Let them decide if and when they talk. If they do start talking, be supportive. Let them know that talking to the forensic interviewer was brave and the right thing to do.You should tell your child there will be more steps to the legal process. The interview was the first step, but it is possible your child will be asked to talk again or asked to testify in court. |

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