



CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY CENTER

Parent Information Sheet

You have been asked to see a nurse practitioner /doctor to help find out if your child has been hurt by somebody in some way. We understand this may be a very hard time for you, your child, and your family. Here is information about what will happen. Please call us if you have any questions.

Your Appointment

Please bring your child to our office on

_____ at _____
(Day and Date) (Time)

If you find you cannot come at this time, please let us know as soon as possible so we can reschedule your appointment.
Call (828) 465-7665.

Before You Come

You may be at the Advocacy Center for 1 hour or more, so please make sure your child has eaten before you come. You may want to bring a bottle or snack in case he/she gets hungry. We have toys and books, but you may want to bring some extras for your child to play with. If your child has a special blanket or toy, be sure to bring it. Extra diapers are a good idea.

You will be talking to the nurse practitioner/doctor alone, so please bring somebody to stay with your child in the waiting room during this time. **Because our waiting room is small, we ask that you bring only one person.**

Be sure to bring your Medicaid card if you have one. If you are on Medicaid and you do not bring your card, we may have to reschedule your appointment.

What Will Happen

When you come to our office, you will check in. You should not have to wait very long to see the provider.

First, we will talk to you and your child together, and tell you about what is going to happen.

Then we will talk to you alone while your child waits in the waiting room with the person you brought.

Then we will talk to your child alone, if he or she is old enough to talk. During this time, you will be in the waiting room.

After we have talked to you together and separately, we will give your child an examination. In most cases, we will ask you to be with your child during the exam. We understand that your child may be anxious, and it is usually better to have a parent there to help.

Some teenagers may be more comfortable and less embarrassed if their parents do not come in during the examination. We will respect their wishes in those cases.

About The Examination

Many parents worry about their child's examination. We do everything we can to make this exam easy and comfortable. Every step of the exam will be explained to your child. Your child will never be held down or forced. We ask your child for permission before we do anything.

Sometimes parents stay with the child during the exam, and sometimes the parents are asked to wait outside. It all depends on the situation and the child's age.

First, your child will have a complete physical, just like a regular checkup.

The nurse practitioner/doctor will probably need to look at your child's bottom. The genital and rectal areas may be viewed with a special lighted magnifying glass. This is called a colposcope. It helps the provider see clearly. It does NOT touch or go inside the child. The exam is done very gently. It will not hurt your child.

The provider almost never needs to examine young children on the inside. With older girls, the nurse practitioner/doctor may need to go inside to do a test called a pap smear. If so, she will be very careful. She will use an instrument called a speculum to help her see. Remember, everything will be explained, and we will not do anything without your child's permission.

After the exam, we will explain what we found to you. You will have a chance to ask the provider questions. Depending on the results of the exam, we may need for your child to see other doctors, or counselors, or to have some laboratory tests done.

A report of the exam may be sent to the doctor or agency (such as Department of Social Services or law enforcement) which sent your child for the exam. If you like, we can also send information to your child's regular doctor. All of these records are kept strictly confidential.

Paying For The Exam

If you have been referred for this exam by DSS, a state program called CMEP will pay for it.

If your child is insured by Medicaid, the costs will be billed to Medicaid. Please be sure to bring your Medicaid card. If you do not bring it, we may have to reschedule your appointment.

In some cases, the cost of the exam may be paid by the Victim's Assistance Program. Information about this program will be provided by the law enforcement agency involved, or by the nurse practitioner/doctor during your appointment.

If you do not have insurance or Medicaid, please come to your appointment anyway. It is very important. We will work with you to cover the costs.

Directions to the Children's Advocacy Center

The CAC is located at 1007 1st Avenue South in Conover, NC.

From I-40 West: Take Exit 131 and turn south onto Highway 16, toward Conover. Continue on Highway 16 through downtown Conover passing Conover School on the right. Immediately after crossing the Highway 70 overpass, the CAC is the second house (large, two-story, brick home) on the left.

From I-40 East: Take Exit 130 and turn south onto Highway 16, toward Conover. Continue on Highway 16 through downtown Conover passing Conover School on the right. Immediately after crossing the Highway 70 overpass, the CAC is the second house (large, two-story, brick home) on the left.