

Someone will contact you by phone by the end of the following business day to schedule a time for your child/ren to be interviewed.

Interviews are completed at:

The Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley (SLV CAC)

202 Carson Ave.
Alamosa, CO 81101
(Use the blue door on the North side of the building)

*****If you *must* cancel or reschedule, the SLV CAC Program requests that you notify us a minimum of 1½ hours prior to your scheduled appointment.**

The Children's Advocacy
Center of the San Luis
Valley (SLV CAC) Program

Tu Casa, Inc.
P.O. Box 473
Alamosa, CO 81101
Phone: (719) 589-2465


www.slv Tucasa.net



The Children's Advocacy
Center of the San Luis Valley
(SLV CAC) Program

*Preparing for Your
Child's Forensic Interview*

The goal of the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley (SLV CAC) is to ensure that children are not further victimized by the intervention systems designed to protect them.



Why use the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley (SLV CAC) Program?

The services offered by the SLV CAC are meant to be child friendly and offer the family and child a trauma free alternative to be interviewed and/or physically examined when there are concerns about possible abuse.

Who will be involved?

A member of the SLV CAC staff known as a Family Advocate will meet with the non-offending parent/s or caregiver and the child. A Forensic Interviewer who is trained in child-centered interviewing techniques will conduct the interview alone with the child. Other professionals involved will observe the interview from another room (law enforcement, Department of Human/Social Services, District Attorney's office). Because this is a sensitive situation we would ask that you notify the officer, Caseworker, or Family Advocate if you plan on bringing additional people.

What happens at the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley?

When you arrive at the SLV CAC, you will be greeted by the Family Advocate, and introductions will be made. The Family Advocate will explain the interviewing process to you. While the interview is taking place, the Family Advocate will talk with you and gather basic information. Your child will be interviewed in a room that is child-friendly and is set up like a family room with a table and chairs. They will be given Play-Doh, paper to draw on, or coloring sheets during the interview. Parents/Caregivers are not allowed in the interview room during the interview; you must wait in the lobby.

How long should I expect to wait for my child while he/she is being interviewed?

You will wait long enough to allow the interviewer to gather the information needed and answer all of the questions our partnering agencies have concerning the allegations. Most visits last from an hour and a half to two hours. It depends on the child and their needs.

How do I prepare my child for the interview?

DO

- Be sure the child gets plenty of rest before the interview.
- Tell your child they will be visiting a building where the room is set up like a family room.
- Give your child permission to talk with the interviewers.
- Tell your child they are in a safe place to tell what happened.
- Tell your child that the person they will talk to is a person who talks to kids every day.
- Tell your child to remain because they did nothing wrong and are not in trouble.
- Tell your child that you will be in the same building during the interview, that you will not be leaving the building.
- Consider bringing an item that comforts your child, for example a favorite blanket or toy.

DO NOT

- Tell your child what to say.
- Promise your child treats or rewards for talking.
- Try to answer questions you do not have answers for.
- Interview your child yourself.
- Cry or show anger in front of your child.

How do I prepare myself for the interview?

Come with questions about the process. Be prepared to answer questions about your child's developmental needs and any other concerns you may have for them. Please note that your children may be shown anatomical drawings of unclothed figures to help clarify what they are telling the interviewer.

After the interview is complete:

Depending on what the child disclosed during the interview, you will be told what steps to take next or whether or not to expect any further contact from law enforcement or the Department of Social/Human Services.

Make sure you receive contact information for the Officer and the Caseworker involved in your case.

You will receive a list of referrals for support services within our community. You will also be asked to complete a survey about your experience with the SLV CAC. Any further questions, comments, or concerns may be directed to the SLV CAC's staff members. You can do this at the time of your visit or from home at this link:

<http://nationalchildrensalliance.fluidsurveys.com/s/slvca/cinial/>



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