

TURNING POINT CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

139 S. Cherry St. Galesburg, IL | 309 – 344 - 8416

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR VISIT TO OUR CENTER



Getting to Our Center

We are located at 139 S. Cherry St. Galesburg, IL on the first floor of the building. There are antique shops located on either side of our Center. The first door will be unlocked, but the door to get into our office will be locked. Please use the ring button so we know to let you in.

We do not have our own parking lot. There is street parking as well as parking spots available in the library's parking lot directly across the street from our building. If you do not have reliable transportation, please call us so we can see how best to assist you with this.

The Forensic Interview



A forensic interview is not an interrogation, but a structured conversation using open-ended questions to obtain information from a child about an event they experienced. These interviews are only conducted by specialized forensic interviewers who have training on how to talk to children about difficult subjects. They never force a child to talk to them and provide breaks if a child asks for one. Only the forensic interviewer and the child will be in the interview room. Law enforcement, DCFS, and prosecution will be watching from another room.



Overview of the Day

When you first arrive at our center, you will meet with our advocate/case manager. The advocate will welcome you to the space and complete the intake paperwork with you. The advocate will also answer any questions you may have and connect you with any resources you may need.

Then, we will begin the forensic interview. The forensic interviewer will meet you and your child(ren) in our waiting area and introduce themselves before showing your child to the interview room. For your child's benefit, you may not observe the interview. You will be reunited with your child immediately after the interview.

Once the forensic interview is completed, you may have the opportunity to meet with the law enforcement, DCFS, and prosecutor on your case to discuss the status and voice any questions and concerns.

HOW TO EXPLAIN YOUR VISIT TO OUR CENTER TO YOUR CHILD(REN)

We encourage you to be honest with your child and speak to them on their level of development. Below, we have provided prompts you may like to use to begin the conversation.



Younger Children:

"We are going to the Turning Point Child Advocacy Center, where you will meet some new friends who want to listen to you talk about anything you want to talk about. The person you will meet listens to all types of kids about all different types of things. Best thing to do is tell the truth and tell them everything. You aren't in any trouble."

Older Children:

"We are going to the Turning Point Child Advocacy Center, where you can talk to someone about what happened in a safe, neutral place. The person you will talk to is a trained forensic interviewer who listens to teens about all sorts of different experiences they've had. This won't be anything like the police investigations you see in tv shows. Be honest and tell them everything, they are here to help you."

Common Questions

Am I in trouble?

No, you are not in trouble. The purpose of this visit is to make sure that you are safe and to listen to you. Your job is to tell the truth to the forensic interviewer – nothing you say will upset them. This is a safe space for you to tell your story.

How long will this take?

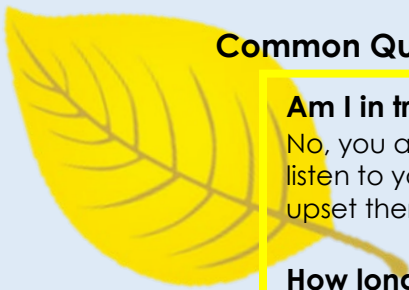
Time spent at the center varies. What is important is that we hear everything you want and need to say.

What will we talk about?

The forensic interviewer wants to get to know you and what is going on in your life.

Will my parent(s) or caregiver(s) be watching the interview?

No, the adults that accompany you will be waiting in the family room while you talk to the forensic interviewer.



Common Emotions

It is common for both your child(ren) and yourself to be nervous, scared, or shy when it comes to visiting our center. These feelings are common, but everyone at the center is a support for you and your family. We want you to feel as comfortable and as welcomed as possible. Be honest with us about any nervousness when you arrive so we can help you feel safe at our center. We also have fidget toys your child(ren) can use during their interview.

