



Support

Children's Waiting Room/Playroom—Upon arriving at the Center your child will be welcomed into a child friendly environment where they are supervised by trained staff.

Family Waiting Room—You will be assigned to one of our Family Waiting Rooms where you will have a comfortable, private area to meet with staff. The typical visit is between two and four hours. Cable television and magazines are available for your use as you wait.

Forensic Medical Examination—A medical examination may be necessary for your child. The Center has a child friendly exam room and highly experienced medical staff from Phoenix Children's Hospital that specialize in the area of child abuse. In most cases a parent can be in the exam room with the child.

Victim Advocate—While your child is being interviewed, you will have the opportunity to meet with a Victim Advocate. An advocate is available to victims and their non-offending family members to provide support, information and referrals. If you should need to go to Court, he/she may accompany you.

CPS—CPS works collaboratively with Law Enforcement. It is their goal to make sure your child is safe.

Mental Health Therapist—Child therapists are available on site for intervention services. Follow up counseling services are available to all abuse victims at the Southwest Family Advocacy Center. During your visit you will be given referral information so that you can set up a counseling appointment.



**Southwest Family
Advocacy Center**

Family Information Booklet



2333 N PebbleCreek Parkway
Suite A-200, Goodyear, AZ 85395
623.333.7900
www.swfac.org



About the Southwest Family Advocacy Center

The Southwest Family Advocacy Center works as a multi-disciplinary team with Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, Medical Staff, Mental Health Therapists and Victim Advocates. We are all here to help you and your family. All services available at the Southwest Family Advocacy Center are free of charge to abuse victims and their non-offending family members.

The Southwest Family Advocacy Center is a place where children who may have been physically or sexually abused, or are witnesses to such incidents, can be interviewed in an environment designed with their comfort in mind.

Learning that your child may have been abused can be overwhelming. For your child, the most helpful response is to be calm and reassuring. Being upset at a time like this is perfectly understandable. However, children often feel embarrassed or guilty about the abuse and may interpret a parent's anxious response as anger towards them.



Preparing your child for the visit

Preparing your child for visiting the Advocacy Center will make a difficult task easier for your child. She/He depends on your approval in order to feel okay about being interviewed.

You might begin by saying, "You and I are going to the Southwest Family Advocacy Center. It's a special place where kids talk about what happened to them. The person you will be talking to talks to lots of kids about what happened to them. She/He needs to know exactly what happened so we can figure out what to do about it. It's important that you tell the truth and only talk about what really happened."

As a parent, you know best what to say to comfort and encourage your child. These are merely suggestions to get you started.

Please Note: Only the Detective assigned to your case can schedule the forensic interview.

For more information on forensic interview frequently asked questions see: www.swfac.org.



Produced by

Southwest Family Advocacy Center