

Gathering Minimal Facts

To ensure the best outcome of a CAC forensic interview, it is important to follow the Minimal Facts process. Doing this supports the investigation while limiting the retraumatization of a child. Instruct the caregiver to not question the child or confront the alleged offender, but to let the child know that a safe adult wishes to talk with them.

Questions for the non-offending caregiver or reporting source:

1. The alleged perpetrators
2. Other children in the house, witnesses and/or additional victims
3. When the abuse happened (last time, frequency)
4. Location where the abuse occurred (establish jurisdiction)
5. Necessary steps to ensure the safety of the child and other potential victims (siblings or others to whom perpetrator has access)

In cases of immediate danger, always adhere to the safety and investigative protocols as designated by your agency.

What Next?

When a child makes a disclosure, always remember the S.L.S. procedure!

Stay Calm

- Don't show panic, fear, anger or shock
- Thank the child for telling you and reassure them that this is NOT their fault

Listen

- Asking too many questions can overwhelm the child
- Be patient and allow them to disclose only what they want to

Support

- Don't keep this a secret in an attempt to "protect" the offender
- Report the disclosure ASAP

For Agency Partners

1. Make a report.
2. Schedule a Forensic Interview with MCAC by going to **www.eupcac.org** for all children who may be involved in any way, including child perpetrators.
3. Contact MCAC to set up an emergency medical examination if the alleged abuse happened within 120 hours.
4. Advise the non-offending caregiver of the CAC interview process and direct them to our website's "For Clients" tab to prepare for their appointment.