

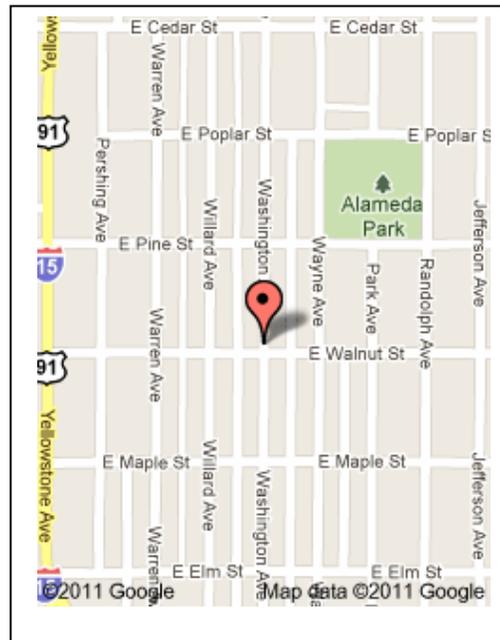
What can I say to my child after the visit to Bright Tomorrows and/or the medical exam?

Listen to your child. If he or she wants to talk about the interview or exam, listen. Don't question your child or ask leading questions. Don't be concerned if your child doesn't want to talk about the visit. Many children are "tired" of talking about it. Thank your child for talking and acknowledge his or her courage for talking. Assure your child of your love and support, no matter what was disclosed or determined during the appointment.

What about counseling?

Children and teens may struggle with confusion, worries, and other intense emotions related to the abuse. Counseling can help children and teens process these thoughts and feelings and to develop a healthy and empowering way to understand and cope with the memories of the abuse. You might tell your child "Even though your body is safe now, kids sometimes have worries or fears about what happened that won't go away. A counselor can help with your worries and fears." Bright Tomorrows provides counseling using Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, a type of counseling that has been proven effective in helping children and teens recover from the emotional effects of sexual abuse. The family advocate you meet with during the interview will help you determine your child's counseling needs and connect you with counseling at Bright Tomorrows or another appropriate agency.

Bright Tomorrows Child Advocacy Center is located in a quiet neighborhood on the corner of Walnut and Washington. Parking is located behind the facility and accessible from Walnut.



Bright Tomorrows Child Advocacy Center

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What Can I Tell My Child About the Forensic Interview?



Bright Tomorrows Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

Family Guide

What happens at Bright Tomorrows?

Bright Tomorrows Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a child-friendly center located in Bannock County. When you and your child arrive, you will be greeted by a Bright Tomorrows staff member and made comfortable in the lobby that offers a TV, books, and toys. Bright Tomorrows provides a place in which a team of trained professionals from multiple agencies evaluate children who may have been abused. The team includes, but is not limited to, Bannock County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, local Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, mental health providers, forensic interviewers, social workers, family advocates, and medical staff from Portneuf Medical Center and the Pocatello Children's Clinic.

What can I tell my child about the child forensic interview?

Tell your child that he or she will be visiting a place to talk about anything that may have happened to them. You might tell your child, "We are going to a special place where kids can talk about anything they want. The person you'll be talking to talks with kids about all kinds of things. It is okay for you to talk to them." Assure your child that you will go with him or her to the Bright Tomorrows, but that he or she will be talking alone to a person who talks to children all the time.

Who will my child talk to during a child forensic interview?

Your child will talk to a child forensic interviewer. The interviewer has special training and experience in talking with children about alleged abuse. The interviewer's goal is to make your child as comfortable as possible while gathering the necessary information for the investigation. The interviewer moves at a pace that is comfortable for your child and never forces a child to talk. Your child will talk to the interviewer in a separate room designed to make your child feel comfortable. The interview room is equipped with discrete video recording cameras and microphones.

Can I watch the interview?

No. Only those people who are directly involved in the investigation are allowed to observe the interview. This reduces stress on the child and provides a neutral setting for the child and the investigation. If possible, please bring a support person to wait with you during this time and with your child after the forensic interview. During and after the interview, you will have a chance to ask questions and talk about your concerns. After the interview, the team will tell you what they learned from the interview and talk with you about the current status of the investigation.

What will I be doing during the interview?

During the interview you will be filling out the necessary paperwork and meeting with the family advocate. While meeting with the family advocate, you may address any questions or concerns you may have regarding child abuse and the current investigation. The family advocate will provide you with educational materials and appropriate resources.

Will my child need a medical exam?

After the interview, the investigative team will discuss a medical exam with you. Your insurance or Crime Victims Compensations may be billed for the exam.

If you have a medical exam scheduled, you might tell your child, "We are going to see a doctor who takes care of kids. You won't get any shots. The doctor just needs to check and make sure that your body is okay." When the exam is over, the doctor will be able to tell you what he or she learned. Medical exams are conducted at Portneuf Medical Center on Hospital Way. The medical exam is conducted by medical professionals with special training. Bright Tomorrows will share necessary information from the interview with the medical staff conducting the exam. If it is determined that a medical exam is appropriate, the hospital will contact you to schedule this appointment.