



Who can access my child's medical record of this exam?


- Records are stored at A Child's Place.
- Medical information release forms are prepared ahead of time to be signed on the day of the forensic interview. **Medical release forms may be signed for:**
 - Law Enforcement
 - Children and Youth Services (CYS)
 - Ongoing medical care facility
 - Parent/legal guardian
- It is important to get medical records from any facility where the child was seen for the abuse allegations prior.
- If criminal charges are filed, the medical report will likely become evidence whether there are findings or no findings.
- The physician may also testify about medical findings or lack thereof in criminal proceedings.




Will I receive a report?

- Depending on the age of the child, the physician may discuss the results of the exam with the child.
- The physician will review the findings with the parent/legal guardian without the child present for young children.
- No written findings are provided at the time of the exam.
- A written report will be mailed to the custodian, as well as each medical release recipient (law enforcement, CYS, etc.).

Contact Us

 (724) 431-3689

 101 Mahood Road
Butler, PA 16001

 www.butlercountycac.org

Information for Parents &
Legal Guardians

Forensic Medical Consultation



*In agreement with A Child's Place Child
Advocacy Center*

**A child friendly, non-
threatening and non-
invasive medical
appointment led by
parent and child's level
of comfort.**

Why does my child need a medical consult?

- **The forensic process has 2 parts:**
 - Forensic interview
 - Physician Consult (recommended during investigation)
- **A pediatrician with specialized training evaluates patients in order to:**
 - Assess health and safety with a complete history and exam.
 - Assess physical findings.
 - Recommend follow-up, labs, and treatment if needed.
 - Document additional disclosures from the child and/or physical evidence of abuse.
 - Reassure the child about their body and health, and provide education about body boundaries.

Before the medical consult:

- The custodian/guardian will need to sign consents and releases prior to the appointment (**child will sign if over the age of 14**).
- CAC staff will review all forms with you and provide copies of all consents & releases.
- CAC staff will speak with you about victim's compensation options available to cover any costs.

Medical consult day:

This medical consult is completely driven by your child. The doctor will meet with you and your child prior to entering the exam room to explain the process and ensure that all parties are comfortable.

- Once in the exam room, the doctor will ask child to change (privately) into a patient gown.
- The doctor will do a head to toe assessment of your child.
- If there are concerns of sexual abuse, the physician may **ASK** to view your child's genitalia to assess infection or injury.
- The doctor may **ASK** to use a small cotton swab to gently touch the outer part of your child's genitalia for laboratory testing.
- The doctor **MAY** use a medical device called a "Colposcope" to take magnified photos. This device does **NOT** touch your child.
- These exams are external observations **ONLY**.
- If your child is female and has started menstruating, the doctor **MAY** suggest laboratory work to screen for pregnancy.
- Both males and females **MAY** be encouraged to be screened for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

**With each step of the consultation, the Doctor will continue to ask your child what they are comfortable with. They can choose to decline any services or to end the consultation at any point.

What if there are no findings?

- It is common for genital exams to be normal, this does not mean that abuse did not occur.
- It can be reassuring to you and your child to know that they are "normal" and have no lasting physical signs of abuse.
- It is important to reassure your child that you believe them regardless of the exam findings.

After the exam:

- A follow-up exam may be recommended.
- Counseling is usually recommended after a sexual abuse allegation. A mental health counselor trained in trauma therapy may be a good option for your child.
- The victim advocate or team member can help identify services for your child.