

What do you do when a child discloses abuse?

What should you do:

Stay calm - don't panic.

Listen to your child and write down everything they say. Note date and time. Do this as they are talking.

Only ask, "Is there anything else you want to tell me?"

Thank them for sharing the abuse situation with you. Tell them you believe them and will take this seriously and help.

Call 911 and report the abuse.

Call the Sexual Assault/Abuse Crisis line for advice and help.
[425-252-4800](tel:425-252-4800)

Call the Department of Children, Youth and Families to report the abuse.
[800-562-5624](tel:800-562-5624)

Keep routines normal.

What should you NOT do:

Do NOT coach your child or practice with your child before their interview with our professionals.

Do NOT ask leading questions such as, "Did Tom touch or hurt you?"

Do NOT confront the offender.

When a child discloses abuse, please seek professional assistance through Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center and do not try to interview your child by yourself.

Things to Remember

You are not alone.

- ▶ An advocate is trained to help you; they are available to talk about your situation and provide information and resources.
- ▶ Counseling may help your child and non-offending family members heal from trauma.
- ▶ We offer mental health assessments and therapy through the Compass Health Child Advocacy Program at no cost to families.
- ▶ Limiting the number of interviews and questions asked of your child is very important to reduce the trauma of their experience.
- ▶ It can be difficult for parents to hear details of abuse. It may be easier for your child to tell someone who is trained to hear this type of information.

Speak with an advocate
24hrs a days/7 days a week
425-252-4800

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Forensic Interviews

If law enforcement determines that a forensic interview is required, your child can be interviewed by a Child Interview Specialist.

- ▶ We have a child-friendly room especially for this purpose.
- ▶ Our child interview specialists are trained to ask questions in a neutral, non-leading, and non-threatening manner. This is essential should the case go to trial.
- ▶ Kids can take a break at any time during the interview.
- ▶ We do not allow parents to watch the interview, because they may be called as a court witness. This is a good time to speak with an advocate.



A facility dog may take part in the interview to provide comfort to the child.

About Dawson Place

The safety and well being of your child is our priority.

- ▶ Dawson Place is a child-friendly environment that will help your child feel comfortable and safe.
- ▶ We work with child abuse victims every day. Let us help you. We are here for your child and your non-offending family members.
- ▶ An advocate may be provided to work with your family, as well as with law enforcement, to answer questions and to set up services needed by your child/teen and family.
- ▶ No cost services provided at Dawson Place to victims and families:
 - Victim Advocacy and Support
 - Child Forensic Interviews
 - Medical Examinations
 - Investigation & Prosecution Services
 - Mental Health Assessments
 - On-going Therapy
 - Information and Referrals
 - Community Outreach and Education