

WHAT TO EXPECT

WHEN YOU COME TO DAVIS HOUSE



"All kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them."
– Earvin "Magic" Johnson

Our Mission

Davis House is committed to combat child abuse by coordinating services to children and their families in crisis and providing community education focused on prevention and early intervention.

We serve Williamson, Hickman, Lewis and Perry Counties (21st Judicial District).

All services are provided at **NO COST** to you.



Our Locations

Franklin Center (and Administrative Office)

101 Forrest Crossing Blvd., Suite 106
Franklin, TN 37064
P: 615.790.5900
F: 615.599.5004

Hohenwald Center

21 Smith Avenue
Hohenwald, TN 38462
P: 931.796.0813
F: 931.796.0816

Centerville Center

109 E. Swan Street
Centerville, TN 37033
P: 931.729.9933
F: 931.729.9932

www.davishousecac.org

A Kid's Point of View

Mom said I was going to talk to a really nice person today. She said I would be safe talking to them and that it was very important to tell the truth.

When I walked in, it was a really cool place. It wasn't scary like I thought it would be. They have fun toys to play with, videos to watch and a kid's table to I could color. A really nice person came in and asked if I would go talk to them. I gave my mom a hug and she said she would be right here waiting when I came back.

During the interview, we sat on big, comfy pillows on the floor. We drew pictures on the biggest piece of paper I've ever seen. The nice lady asked me lots of questions and we talked about my family school and what I like to do. We had one very important rule when I was talking to the lady. She told me it was very important to always tell the truth. I told her I would tell the truth about everything she asked me today. I was a little nervous at first talking to someone I just met, but she listened when I talked and I think she really wanted to learn about me.

Back in the waiting room, my mom was still sitting there waiting on me to get back. I told her what a good job I did and said that I told the whole truth. The nice lady said it was mom's turn to talk now. Another worker person came out and asked if they could play with me. I said yes. We played for a little while and then I got to pick out a button to put in a giant jar. She said that every time a kid came in and talked they got to pick out a button and put it in the special jar. There were A LOT of buttons! My mom came back out and said we could go home now.

I'm proud of myself for being brave and telling the truth!

"If you don't stand up for children, then you don't stand up for much."

- Marian Wright Edelman

What is a Child Advocacy Center?

A Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a child-friendly place where families meet with professionals in the field of child abuse investigations. Usually, a referral of sexual abuse or severe physical abuse has been made to the Department of Children's Services (DCS) or a Law Enforcement Agency. When that referral is made, the agencies contact the CAC to set up a forensic interview.

It is a scary and confusing time when you find out that your child may have been abused. Most people are overwhelmed and don't know what to do in child abuse situations because they have never gone through this experience before. Luckily, the CAC is staffed with experienced, caring people whose job is to help the families that come to our Centers.

What is a "forensic interview?"



A forensic interview is simply a fact-finding conversation. Forensic Interviewers are specifically trained to speak with children, gather information and ask questions in a non-leading way. The forensic interview is observed through closed circuit TV by both a Child Protective Services worker and a Law Enforcement Detective. Forensic interviews are recorded on DVD for investigative purposes. To make sure the process is easier on the child, only the child and the interviewer are in the room during the interview. This allows the interviewer to have the child's full attention as well as to protect the truthfulness of the interview process.

Why do we meet at the CAC?

Davis House CAC is designed to help your child feel at ease from the moment they walk through the door. Bright colors, children's artwork, toys and games create a child-friendly environment. The welcoming nature of the Center provides a positive alternative to police stations and state offices. Family members meet with investigation professionals in a comfortable, neutral setting.

What should I tell my child about coming to Davis House?

It is important to give your child some basic information about why they are coming to Davis House. Some parents tell their child they are going to talk with a nice person whose job is to help keep kids safe, while others say they are going for a safety lesson. You know your child best so explain it in a way that you think they will understand. It is usually helpful to emphasize the importance of telling the truth.

Most importantly, please don't question your child about the specific allegations.

Can I watch my child's interview or view the video?

Unfortunately, parents are not allowed to view forensic interview or DVDs. Forensic interviews are part of the investigation, so only the investigators are permitted to view the interview or DVDs. These guidelines are not set up to keep information from you, but to protect your child and the investigation. Following the interview, the investigators will be happy to meet with you to explain everything that happened during the interview and what your child said.



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